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Entertainment

Neeson on list of TIFF films
pg 35

One finger equals one more ticket

GESTURE An Ontario driver has learned a hard lesson about respecting authority.

He was pulled over for speeding Sunday on Highway 401 near Port Hope after being tracked by a police helicopter.

Police say the driver was stopped and ticketed for travelling 35 kilometres faster than the posted speed limit.

After he received the ticket and began to pull away, the driver raised his hand and flashed an obscene gesture toward provincial police Const. Bettina Schwarze.

She pulled the unidentified man over again and promptly gave him a $110 ticket.

The offence? Making an improper hand signal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

World pg 11

Clinton aids release of 2

ShareYourViews
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CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

John Bothelo, 23, from left, Kyle Homer, 18, Derek Airlie, 24, Ryan Airlie, 19, Michael Curatolo, 18, and Chris Lachance, 21, pose for a photo in Barrie. The group's effort helped save four people from Moon River Falls Sunday. More coverage, page 8.

'Acting on instinct'

Group helps save four people from swirling waters

It was a last-minute decision to hike to Moon River Falls.

The eight campers wanted to catch a final swim Sunday before they headed home to Barrie. As they dried off, they watched a group of men jump off the rocks into the furiously swirling waters below.

"I remember thinking, 'What are they doing? That's so dangerous,'" said Ryan Airlie, 19. "We were warned not to go in because the current was so strong."

Then they heard screams. Seven men were caught in the harsh current.

"The guys kept spinning in a circle. It seemed to keep pulling them under. We yelled: 'Hold on! Keep swimming!'"
Michael Curatolo, part of group that helped save four swimmers at Moon River Falls

A man ran over to the young campers, ages 17 to 24, pleading for towels. The group grabbed what it had and yanked off shirts, knotting them to make a makeshift rope.

By this time, three of the swimmers had already disappeared. Police recovered two of their bodies yesterday.

"We were just acting on instinct. We knew we had to move fast," said Derek Airlie, 24.

The brothers, alongside friend Jamie Palomaki and a man there with his family, climbed onto a rocky outcrop and hauled out one of the swimmers.

Three other swimmers continued to be tossed around in the vicious whirlpool.

"The guys kept spinning in a circle. It seemed to keep pulling them under," said Michael Curatolo, 18. "We yelled: 'Hold on! Keep swimming!'"

The men managed to lasso two swimmers and pull them to a rock ledge. But the towels were soaked and heavy; they needed something lighter to reach the final swimmer.

Using a machete, rescuers chopped down a sapling, tied the tree to the towels and reeled in the last swimmer.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Twisted tale of revenge

A married man who planned to rendezvous with one of his handful of lovers at a Wisconsin motel instead found himself bound, blindfolded and assaulted by a group of women out for revenge, according to court documents.

Wendy Sewell

Four women, including his wife, eventually showed up to humiliate the man, who ended up with his penis glued to his stomach in a bizarre plot to punish him for a lovers' quadrangle gone bad, according to the documents filed in Calumet County.

Now it's the women who face punishment and at least one said the story has gotten twisted.

"I am disturbed. I am upset. I am having a hard time handling life; an emotional wreck," Wendy Sewell, 43, said in a phone interview from her home. "I am ashamed."

The women are free on $200 cash bails. Investigators say all the women but one were romantically involved with the man. Online court records didn't list defence lawyers for any of the women Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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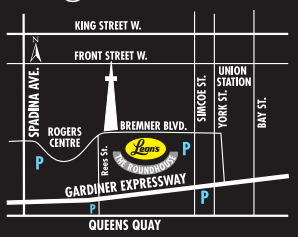

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Three teens shot in two incidents
Three teenagers were shot in two separate incidents yesterday. A 17-year-old and a 16-year-old were shot when gunfire erupted near Pharmacy and Danforth avenues. About two hours earlier, a teenage girl was shot near Eglinton Avenue West and Black Creek Drive. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Teens robbed of bus fare

Two 14-year-olds were robbed of bus tickets at gunpoint shortly after midnight yesterday. Police say that the teens were walking near Islington Avenue West and Rexdale Boulevard when they were approached by two men. One took out a handgun. Neither teen was injured. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Relating

Steve Collins brings his take on modern relationships to Metro readers.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Officials say the next 48 hours will be crucial as wildfires threaten a B.C. community at **metronews.ca/canada**

In Transit Completion of York University's dedicated busway is running behind schedule at **metronews.ca/blogs**

Video Toronto residents rejoice as garbage collectors return to work after a lengthy strike at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 390 **Ontario Pick 4:** 8588
Encore: 4734329
Daily Keno: 2, 3, 4, 13, 16, 17, 21, 24, 26, 27, 28, 32, 35, 38, 39, 41, 45, 47, 67 and 70.
These results are not official.

Massive cleanup begins

Garbage crews working overtime to clear six-weeks of trash

Greg Penney had good reason to celebrate the first regular day of garbage pickup after the city workers' strike — and it wasn't because he had a lot of trash to get rid of.

The Upper Beach resident, who usually picks through the garbage near his house for bottles and items of value, struck gold yesterday.

Before noon, he had already found a 15-speed bike, more than 9 kilograms of copper and brass fittings, $10 worth of bottles, a Maple Leafs clock in a shadow box and a full bottle of beer.

"I'm always scavenging," said Penney, 43, as he paused to drop the bike off at home before heading back out.

"It's amazing what you find in the garbage."

To help get rid of waste accumulated during the strike, the city is allowing residents to leave unlimited garbage and recyclables for pickup for the next month.

On streets across the city, people took advantage of the grace period, piling up bags of extra garbage as well as old mattresses, couches and other large discarded items from around the house.

Crews are working overtime to clean it up, with some workers taking 12-hour shifts to get the job done.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JIM RANKIN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A resident welcomes back Bart Brassard, 47, on a street in the city's east end. The first garbage day following the municipal workers strike brought sickly sweet smells and stockpiles of garbage to city curbs in certain parts of the city.

City council

- With the civic workers' strike over, Toronto councillors get to clear up their share of the mess yesterday — in this case, holding a meeting to tidy up urgent business that was put on ice when the strike prompted cancellation of July's regular council meeting and set back business.

Pact offers amnesty for strikers

DISCIPLINE An amnesty agreement that was part of the deal to end Toronto's civic workers' strike apparently will prevent the city from disciplining strikers convicted of criminal behaviour on the picket line.

But the list of strikers who may benefit from the agreement isn't long. Toronto police say they laid criminal charges against only three people stemming from picket line incidents during the 39-day strike — and in two of those, cases, strikers were the victims rather than the accused.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Incident

- One city union member faces mischief charges involving allegations the worker took two ambulances without permission the night the strike began and left them on the street with lights flashing.

GE closing Oakville light bulb plant

JOBS General Electric's consumer products division is shutting down a light bulb manufacturing plant in Oakville with the loss of about 180 jobs.

The company said late yesterday the work will be shifted to other GE plants.

The workers union is calling on the provincial government to step in and intervene.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SWORD CHARGE A 53-year-old Mississauga man has been arrested after carrying a concealed samurai sword into the gaming floor of Casino Rama Monday evening. The OPP say they were called to Casino Rama at around 6:45 p.m. for a man carrying a concealed samurai sword in the gambling area. The man is being held for a bail hearing tomorrow in Barrie.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

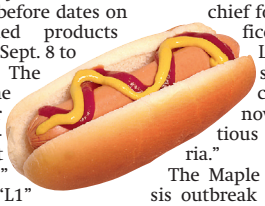
Wieners recalled over listeriosis fears

HOT DOGS Maple Leaf Foods Inc. is recalling nine wiener products because they may contain traces of the Listeria bacteria.

The wieners are produced at a Maple Leaf facility in Hamilton under the Hygrade, Shopsy's and Maple Leaf brand names.

The company says in a statement there have been no reported illnesses and this is a precautionary measure only.

The best-before dates on the recalled products range from Sept. 8 to Sept. 17. The dates, the number for the Hamilton plant "EST. 611" and Line 1 "L1" are on an inkjet stamp located on the edge of the packaging.



Dr. Randall Huffman, the chief food safety officer at Maple Leaf, says in a statement the company is now "ultra-cautious about Listeria."

The Maple Leaf listeriosis outbreak last summer claimed 22 lives across Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bay Street luminary dies in plane crash

Jack Lawrence, the Bay Street luminary known for his intensity in both the boardroom and the gym, died Monday when the float plane he was flying home from his cottage crashed near Lake Muskoka. His girlfriend, Carol Richardson, 48, was also killed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local company gets a charge

Province promises $17 million to electric car battery company

A Mississauga company that makes electric car batteries will get nearly $17 million from the Ontario government, a move Premier Dalton McGuinty said was about investing in promising sectors and not about picking winners and losers.

McGuinty is promising $16.7 million to help Electrovaya create about 240 new jobs in addition to the 50 workers it currently has, while the company itself will invest nearly $95 million in its expansion.

The move follows an investment of $263 million to bring video game developer Ubisoft to Toronto in June, as well as a $23-million investment for Toronto's Starz Animation Studio, which specializes in high-end computer-animated films, announced in May.

The premier also held an event at a Chevrolet dealership last month, promising rebates for people who buy electric cars. But McGuinty denies the funding amounts to picking winning companies — a concept that had been promoted by former Economic Development Minister Michael Bryant, and played down by the province.

"It's not so much land on specific enterprises, but on specific sectors and opportunities," McGuinty said at Electrovaya's plant in Mississauga yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$10K

Last month, Dalton McGuinty announced rebates of up to $10,000 for people who buy electric cars, a move critics have called short-sighted.

Critics hammer away at eHealth

POLITICS The opposition parties accused the Liberal government of incompetence yesterday after eHealth Ontario named its third chief executive officer in as many months, with a fourth to be appointed before the end of this year.

Tim Hudak

The government can play musical chairs with the CEOs all it wants, but the bottom line is Health Minister David Caplan should be fired, said Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak.

"It's either incompetence or neglect, neither of which is excusable when it comes to scarce health dollars," said Hudak. "We need a new minister to come in there and clean up this mess."

The New Democrats repeated their call for Caplan's resignation, and said rotating through CEOs only creates uncertainty at eHealth and detracts from its mandate to develop electronic health records.

Former eHealth CEO Sarah Kramer and former board chair Dr. Alan Hudson both resigned in June after the Conservatives and New Democrats complained the agency gave out $5 million in untendered contracts to consulting companies.

Documents released by the government last week showed the value of those untendered contracts was closer to $16 million, with the biggest ones going to companies the opposition parties say have ties to the Liberal government.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Questions abound for foot found in N.Y.

MYSTERY Canadian and U.S. police are trying to unravel the mystery of how a human foot severed just above the ankle came to be among a stream of litter moving along a conveyor belt at a New York state recycling plant.

The origin of the appendage — a right foot, slightly decomposed and lacking a shoe or any other covering — is in dispute, with some reports suggesting it may be from Canada.

Police on this side of the border said yesterday morning the garbage from which the foot emerged came from a specific transfer station in the Toronto area. Staff Sgt. David Vickers also said other items that appeared to be medical waste were found in the same pile.

But authorities in the U.S. aren't convinced.

Police there say most of the material that arrives at the recycling plant in the town of Seneca, midway between Rochester and Syracuse, N.Y., is from New York state. Only a small amount comes from Toronto.

"Somehow it got out there that the foot originated in Canada."
Philip Povero, N.Y. sheriff

"Somehow it got out there that the foot originated in Canada," said Philip Povero, sheriff for Ontario County, N.Y.

The foot arrived with trash deposited sometime between July 29 and Aug. 3, Povero said. Since Wednesday, 136 recycling trucks have unloaded material at the plant next door to a landfill.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Weather **Latest victim**

COLIN MACCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The continuing drama of our summer played out on Queen Street East as Toronto endured yet another downpour yesterday afternoon. Tiffany Koenig, the storm's latest victim, heads home with her faithful companion, one-year-old Meeya.

Stranded Canadian will see a physician

PASSPORT The Toronto woman going to extremes to prove her identity to Canadian officials in Africa is seeking psychological help.

Suaad Hagi Mohamud, 31, was detained at the airport in Kenya's capital of Nairobi May 21 while attempting to board a flight to Toronto.

She was held for not looking like her four-year-old passport photo and spent eight days in jail.

Mohamud will see a doctor today in Nairobi to treat stress arising from, among other things, being jailed with killers at Langata Women's Prison.

Treatment

- The treatment will be paid for by humanitarian agency Eccoterra International, which is helping the stranded Canadian.

"The situation is better," Mohamud said of her living conditions after Toronto lawyer Raoul Boulakia paid to transfer her from a dangerous slum hotel to a more secure location in a safer area.

"But I won't be OK until I get back home and just be with my son."

Meanwhile, Mohamud anxiously awaits the results of a DNA test to prove her identity. All DNA material needed for the test was scheduled to arrive yesterday at the labs of the Vancouver-based company Orchid Cellmark.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

CRIME Police are using computer-generated images and clay models to revive the mystery of a woman whose remains were found in a field near Clarington in 2006. Scientists say the woman was 18 to 30 years old when she died, and the remains could have been in the field two to 25 years.

DRIVERS Fifty-eight people lost their driver's licence in Toronto over the long weekend. Licences were removed from 26 drivers who had a blood-alcohol level above 0.05; 20 people lost their licence for 90 days for impaired driving; and 12 people lost their licence and had their car impounded for stunt driving.

FIRE A two-alarm fire ripped through the top of a two-storey building in the Beach neighbourhood early yesterday morning. The fire was put out just after 3 a.m., but the damage is estimated to be around $50,000. The Fire Marshal is still investigating.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Hybrids don't produce expected results says study

A study out of the University of British Columbia has found that government rebates on hybrid vehicles aren't producing the environmental results expected. The intention of the rebate program is to replace gas-guzzling SUVs, trucks and vans with the smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Halifax garden fixture dies

Mother Goose is dead. Staff at the Halifax Public Gardens say the popular bird, a fixture at the Victorian-style gardens in the city's south end, passed away on Monday. Fondly named Mother or Momma Goose, she was dropped off at the gardens over 20 years ago and never left. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians saving more

Canadians are socking away more money and spending less than people of many other industrialized nations in the current global economic downturn, a new survey suggests.

The push to save is driven in part by a belief among almost one-third of Canadians that the recession will mean a delayed retirement, according to the survey from international bank ING Direct.

Mark Carney

The global report released yesterday suggested 77 per cent of Canadians have saved at the same pace or more in the past six months, which is just one percentage point behind the first-place Austrians.

Overall, Canadians were better savers than people in the United States, which came in third with 72 per cent of those surveyed saying they saved the same or more in the past six months.

However, more Americans had increased their savings than Canadians in recent months.

The survey found 60 per cent of Canadians said they were saving the same amount they did six months ago, while 17 per cent increased their savings. That compares to 47 per cent of Americans who said they were saving the same sums, and 25 per cent having added more to their piggy banks.

The survey comes as Canada is said to be coming out of one of the worst recessions in its history. Bank of Canada Gov. Mark Carney recently said the recession is over, with the summer quarter expected to produce growth of 1.3 per cent. But Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has cautioned against overly optimistic assessments, warning that Canada will continue to shed jobs even if there is GDP growth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A man sits in Lake Okanagan while watching wildfires burn on Terrace Mountain north of Kelowna, B.C., in the early morning hours yesterday. Hundreds of firefighters are battling raging forest fires in British Columbia and officials have said they may have to call in reinforcements from other nations, including the United States and Australia.

More firefighters help B.C.

FOREST FIRES British Columbia is getting help internationally and from local urban fire departments in an all-out effort to stop forest fires from overrunning several towns.

Thirty fire specialists from Australia and New Zealand have confirmed they'll come to spell off exhausted fire crews.

The province is also asking for help from city fire departments to prevent buildings from burning once the fires race through the forests.

"The large number of fires is stretching our resources."
Pat Bell,
Forests Minister

"The large number of fires is stretching our resources," Forests Minister Pat Bell said Tuesday in announcing the international help.

Chilliwack's fire department is sending a crew of seven.

The latest acquisitions join another 850 personnel from across the country along with B.C.'s own firefighting team of almost 3,000.

The next two or three days will be critical as crews try to get the upper hand on a wildfire that now covers 33 square kilometres and threatens to engulf the town of Lillooet. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Father says he regrets letting boy drive car

YOUTUBE A Quebecer who filmed his seven-year-old son driving a car along a back road says he regrets the whole affair and is willing to face any legal consequences.

The father gave an interview with veteran crime reporter Claude Poirier yesterday and said the incident occurred two years ago.

The man filmed the boy driving and then posted it on YouTube.

Quebec provincial police said Monday they have opened an investigation.

The man also said in the interview he was only joking when he said the boy got the car up to 70 km/h.

He says the vehicle never exceeded 40 km/h.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prairie province pitches feds on reactor

ISOTOPES Saskatchewan wants to build a nuclear reactor that could replace an aging facility in Ontario that supplies medical isotopes to the world.

The province and the University of Saskatchewan have submitted a proposal to the federal government to develop a 20-megawatt, low-enriched uranium research reactor in Saskatoon.

The proposal says a new reactor could be ready by 2016. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Price tag

- Reactor construction costs estimated between $500 and $750 million.

News in brief

APPEAL A Manitoba couple found guilty of murdering the woman's young daughter want new trials unless their convictions are reduced to manslaughter. In separate briefs filed with the Manitoba Court of Appeal, Samantha Kematch and Karl McKay argue they were unfairly convicted of first-degree murder. They point out they denied during their trial they confined five-year-old Phoenix Sinclair to a basement where she died on the cold floor after the last of many beatings. Under the Criminal Code, someone is deemed to have committed first-degree murder instead of second-degree murder or manslaughter if he or she forcibly confined the victim at the time of the slaying. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Who are you calling birdbrained?

EXPERIMENT It's long been considered an insult to call a person a "birdbrain." But experiments with one species of crow suggest that referring to someone this way might actually be a compliment.

Experiments by researchers at Oxford University show New Caledonian crows in captivity spontaneously used up to three tools in the correct sequence to achieve a goal — a feat never before seen in non-human animals without explicit training.

Five out of seven birds tested figured out how to extract different lengths of sticks from tubes so they could ultimately get one long enough to fish out a morsel of food at the bottom of the deepest tube.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bramalea City Centre
2880 Queen St. E (Hwy. 7 & Airport Rd.)
55 Mountainash Rd. (Springdale Square)
10 - 80 Pertosa Dr.

Mississauga
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Heartland Town Centre
Square One
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101 - 6200 Dixie Rd.
9 - 34 Bristol Rd. E
2 - 4920 Tomken Rd.

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Oakville Place
RioCan Burloak
18 - 2501 Third Line
760 Pacific Rd.

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Pacific Mall

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Upper Canada Mall
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Hillcrest Shopping Centre
4 - 11005 Yonge St.
9301 Bathurst St.

Thornhill
Promenade Mall
7171 Yonge St. (Galleria)
7378 Yonge St.

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Vaughan Mills Outlet Mall
3 - 10019 Keele St.
2 - 160 Cidermill Ave.
3 - 4000 Hwy. 7

Woodbridge
A7 - 4220 Steeles Ave. W

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Alberta conducting 2 probes into fatal stage collapse

The Alberta government has ordered two investigations into what happened Saturday when the main stage — that had been used at other concerts in Canada — crumbled at the Big Valley Jamboree country music festival in Camrose, killing one person and injuring 75. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Divers find two bodies

A distraught family was forced to say farewell to their son in a body bag yesterday after he and two others went missing in dangerously tumultuous water at a popular cliff-jumping area in cottage country.

Peter Ludian, 21, who was visiting from Poland, was one of three young men who never resurfaced after cliff-jumping with four other friends Sunday afternoon. The long weekend ended in a search for the bodies of three men in an eddy beneath Moon Falls waterfall, near Bala.

The falls had flooded to dangerous levels, causing many locals to shake their heads at the daring attempt to jump off them, and police to issue a warning about unsafe swimming conditions.

Friends

- The three swimmers went missing Sunday during a long weekend stay on the river. Seven friends had entered the fast-moving water, but only four came out.

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

An OPP helicopter leaves yesterday with the body of a man pulled from Moon River Falls.

Insp. Ed Medved of the Bracebridge detachment of the OPP said Ludian's was the first body police pulled from the water around 9:15 a.m. yesterday.

A woman, who appeared to be Ludian's mother, kneeled over and kissed the hand of the man as two other family members wept over the body.

At about 1:25 p.m., police found another man's body in water more than seven metres deep.

The body of Vladimir Sirghi, 22, of Barrie, was found about 200 metres downstream from the falls.

A provincial police dive team was using sonar, two divers and a motor boat to locate the body of 31-year-old Vladimir Tsimfer, from Mississauga, last night.

Six "heroes" from Barrie who had seen the swimmers in trouble reacted quickly to save some of them, said Mark Walsh, who is renting a cottage on the river. "They had a machete with them, chopped down a tree, and put some towels or shirts in the end of it and got … four of them out," Walsh said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teachers quiz astronauts at space station

Q&A Lined up single file, and giddy as grade school students, a group of Canadian teachers looked more like their pupils yesterday as they waited to speak directly with astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

Robert Thirsk

Canada's Robert Thirsk and American Michael Barratt were beamed into the seventh annual Canadian Space Educator Conference via downlink to field various personal questions, including some of a personal nature.

They each took a turn at the microphone to pose questions on topics from the astronauts' exercise regimen to the emotional impact of drinking reconstituted urine from a new wastewater recycling program that turns urine, sweat and moisture into drinking water.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

PREMIER'S MEET The economic situation and future growth will be the focus when political leaders from 10 provinces and three territories meet in Regina this week for their annual summer meeting, according to Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall, who is hosting the event. Wall said there will be discussion as to whether or not the stimulus package has had an impact in each province and nationally, in terms of creating jobs and helping Canada get through the recession.

CHOPPER CRASH The families of passengers who died in the crash of a Sikorsky helicopter off Newfoundland and the sole survivor of the tragedy have "voluntarily discontinued" their lawsuit in a Philadelphia court against the U.S. company in hopes of reaching a settlement, court documents show.

GRIM ANNIVERSARY The family of a teen gunned down by Montreal police will join community groups in a march to mark the one-year anniversary of his death. Police shot 18-year-old Fredy Villanueva at close range and wounded two other youths last Aug. 9 in the city's Montreal North neighbourhood. Widespread rioting broke out in the area a day after his death and a police officer was shot in the leg.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coke bust in B.C.
RCMP say an international cocaine smuggling ring has been busted in northeastern B.C. A 29-year-old man has been arrested in Dawson Creek. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nurse takes stand in Halifax Taser inquiry

An inquiry probing the death of a mentally ill man who was Tasered by Halifax police has heard Howard Hyde was "restlessness" and "confused" when he was taken to hospital after being shocked twice.

Susan Hedley, a registered nurse who helped care for Hyde in the early morning hours of Nov. 21, 2007, testified yesterday paramedics said the 45-year-old man had schizophrenia and was off his medication.

Hyde was "slightly agitated" when he was brought into the trauma room of a Halifax hospital in handcuffs at about 2:30 a.m., she said.

"(He was) talking, but not really connecting his thoughts," she said during questioning by lead counsel for the inquiry.

Hedley also testified that paramedics indicated that Hyde had been Tasered and was given CPR. She said Hyde's vital signs were assessed and routine blood tests were done. He was also seen by Dr. Stephen Curry, who ordered 10 milligrams of an anti-psychotic combination sedative.

> **"(He was) talking, but not really connecting his thoughts."**
> Susan Hedley

Hedley also said an EKG — which records the heart's electrical activity — was performed on Hyde.

Under questioning by police lawyer Sandra MacPherson Duncan, Hedley testified the machine showed there was abnormal activity, but she did not elaborate.

The inquiry heard two weeks ago that a doctor declared Hyde medically stable about seven hours after he was shocked with the stun gun. Hyde was released into the custody of police so that he could be brought before a judge to face charges.

But Dr. Janet MacIntyre included instructions on a health transfer form that made it clear police were required to bring Hyde back to the hospital if he was not granted a psychiatric assessment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

TOFINO Dozens of so-called jumbo squid have washed ashore along Vancouver Island beaches in recent weeks, although a local biologist thinks their deaths were likely natural. The Humboldt squid have been washing up in the Tofino area. Josie Osborne of the Raincoast Education Society says the squid were probably immature juvenile animals that may have been hunting before the water carried them to land. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Comment

Ode to Tommy Douglas

Ex-Saskatchewan premier fought for universal health care

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

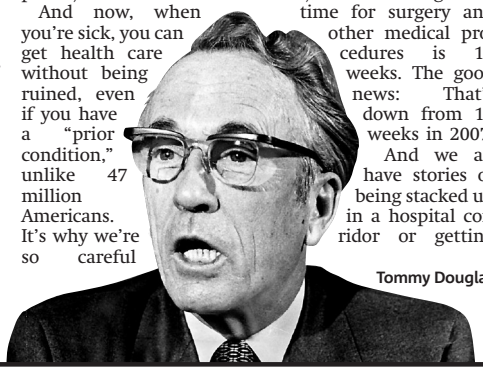
As Barack Obama tries to bring universal health care to the USA and the "Brooks Brothers Brigade" tries everything in its power to stop him, let's take a quiet moment and give thanks to ____ (fill in the deity of your choice) for medicare.

More than back bacon and our legendary tendency to go "eh?" it's what makes us Canadian.

In fact, we should erect a statue to Tommy Douglas, the Father of Medicare, right on the lawn of Parliament Hill. I'm sure we can warehouse a couple statues of Queen Victoria to make space.

I suspect that many of you reading this today born in the 1970s, '80s or '90s have no idea who Tommy Douglas was. A little background: He was the premier of Saskatchewan who fought off the fiercely focused efforts of the medical lobby and a doctor's strike to get universal health care adopted in Saskatchewan, back in 1962. Four years later, Ottawa, under Lester Pearson (another statue, please), followed suit.

And now, when you're sick, you can get health care without being ruined, even if you have a "prior condition," unlike 47 million Americans. It's why we're so careful when we go shopping for cheese across the border. We might break a leg and won't be able to crawl back to health care and safety.



Tommy Douglas

I know, I know. There's a lot wrong with the system as currently constituted. The Fraser Institute (our own version of the Brooks Brothers Brigade) estimates health care will consume 100 per cent of provincial revenues by the year 2050 (it takes up more than half now), and the average wait time for surgery and other medical procedures is 17 weeks. The good news: That's down from 18 weeks in 2007.

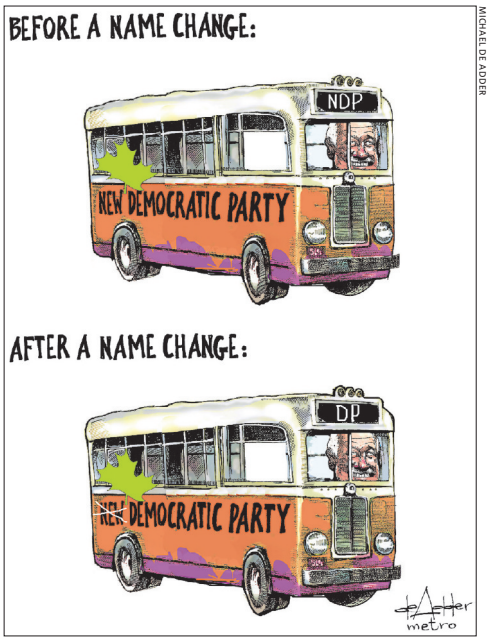
And we all have stories of being stacked up in a hospital corridor or getting treated in a broom closet while waiting for a bed. Inevitably, we're looking at a two-tier system where those who can will pay for preferential treatment, while the rest of us limp into the lineup.

Implementing a version of that two-tier system in America will cost $1 trillion. But it's necessary — now more than ever as increased unemployment brings increased loss of benefits.

It's funny. I remember Tommy Douglas as a little man with thick glasses and an annoying, adenoidal speaking style that would cause me to change channels if there was more than one, which, in 1962, there wasn't. But without that adenoidal little man, we'd all be up Meech Lake without a paddle.

Cue the statue.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Worth mentioning

Crossing fine line between foolishness and stupidity

It's a question of degrees. What's stupider? Letting your seven-year-old drive the family SUV during a rainstorm? Or filming the whole thing and posting it on YouTube?

When it debuted in 2005, YouTube's defining genre was the "ill-advised stunt." Or even better, the ill-advised stunt gone wrong. But however foolish it is to advertise how your roof jump into the swimming pool suddenly became six months in traction, it wasn't going to land you in jail.

That makes that early group of Mensa candidates marginally more intelligent than this new wave of YouTube braggarts:

April 2008: British actress Tricia Walsh-Smith posts a series of increasingly bizarre screeds on YouTube lashing out at her soon-to-be ex, Broadway producer Philip Smith. The videos of Walsh-Smith rambling about her husband's sexual shortcomings are a big hit. But citing the "callous" Internet campaign, a judge boots her out of the couple's tony Park Avenue apartment.

January 2009: After being robbed at gunpoint in his Atlanta home, hip-hop star Soulja Boy describes a chaotic scene involving a half-dozen thugs and machine-guns. Shortly thereafter, the offended intruders post a video refuting those claims. "We only used one gun to rob you!" the assailants protest, holding up a pistol.

February: An amateur horticulturalist from Somerset, England, uploads a series of videos documenting the growth of his marijuana crop. Unfortunately, his cunning ruse — using his real name as his screen name — doesn't put police off the scent.

April: Seven budding demolition experts from Maine post a video in which they firebomb a vacant building. Showing their faces was risky. Rolling credits at the video's conclusion was idiotic. All seven face arson charges.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Word on the street: There have been conflicting opinions about whether or not the recession is over. Do you think we're on the road to recovery?

Tyler Bellaire
age 14, Toronto

A: No. I don't think so because stores are still not making as much profit as they could be because they are still putting good deals on the market.

Finnian Roach
age 19, Toronto

A: I think people are trying to get on the road to recovery but it's not really working that well.

Andrea Ewer
age 22, Halifax

A: I haven't noticed any difference in my own personal life — I haven't noticed any up or down.

Yvan Levesque
age 57, Toronto

A: No. I don't think so. I think it's only starting to get better because in Toronto, everything is going up in price: Rent, food, everything except people's salaries.

Melanie Keast
age 33, New Brunswick

A: I don't think we're over it yet. As Canadians I think we really need to keep track of how we spend and how we live, and learn to be smart spenders.

Brian Ball
age 23, Calgary

A: No. I heard about the deficit change in Alberta from $4 billion to $7 billion. That doesn't sound like we are on the road to recovery.

Tell us your views by email to torontoletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrotoronto
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Storms brewing over Pacific
U.S. forecasters say Tropical Storm Felicia has formed in the Pacific while Tropical Storm Enrique is strengthening not far from it. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Clinton secures release of duo jailed in N.Korea

His mission accomplished, former U.S. president Bill Clinton left Pyongyang last night accompanied by American journalists Euna Lee and Laura Ling after North Korean leader Kim Jong Il pardoned the women from their 12-year prison sentences.

KCNA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former U.S. president Bill Clinton, seated with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang yesterday. Clinton's surprise visit resulted in the release of two journalists jailed in North Korea.

Clinton and the two Californians were flying back to the U.S., his spokesman Matt McKenna said, less than 24 hours after the former U.S. leader landed in the North Korean capital on a private, humanitarian trip to secure their release.

The White House had no comment.

Their departure was a jubilant conclusion to a more than four-month ordeal for the women arrested near the North Korean-Chinese border in March and sentenced in June to 12 years of hard labour for illegal entry and engaging in "hostile acts."

Clinton's landmark trip also resulted in rare talks with reclusive Kim Jong Il that state-run media described as "wide-ranging" and "exhaustive."

While the White House emphasized the private nature of Clinton's trip, his landmark visit to Pyongyang to free the Americans was a coup that came at a time of heightened tensions over North Korea's nuclear program.

North Korea had accused Ling, 32, and Lee, 36, both of Clinton's former vice-president Al Gore's Current TV media venture, of sneaking into the country illegally. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Americans accused of spying

IranCrisis

ARRESTS Iran has arrested three Americans who strayed across the border from Iraq on allegations they illegally entered the country, and a lawmaker said yesterday that authorities are deciding whether they will be accused of spying.

Officials in Iraq's Kurdish region said Sunday that the three — Shane Bauer, Sarah Shourd and Joshua Fattal — were tourists who inadvertently crossed into Iran on July 31 while hiking in the region. Friends and family say the three were adventurous travellers who accidentally stumbled into the wrong place at the wrong time.

Their arrest and Iran's accusations could spark a new standoff with the United States at a time when Iran is already mired in its worst political crisis in decades over the disputed June 12 presidential election. Lawmaker Mohammad Karim Abedi, who heads the Iranian parliament's National Security Committee, said on state-run Arabic television that he believed the three came as spies, but authorities are still deciding whether there is proof to bring legal action against them.

"Surely we can say that they came as spies," he said. "If it is proven that they were spies, the necessary legal procedures will be sought against them." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arrests possible

- Iran says it will prosecute security forces and officials accused of abusing civilians in unrest following the disputed June 12 election, state news agency IRNA said. At least 30 people have been killed and hundreds detained in clashes sparked by claims of fraud in President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's re-election.

Police beat pants trial protesters

SUDAN Sudanese police fired tear gas and beat women protesting outside a Sudanese court yesterday during the trial of a female journalist accused of violating the Islamic dress code by wearing trousers in public. Lubna Hussein, a former UN worker, is facing 40 lashes on the charge of "indecent dressing." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pittsburgh-area health club shooting leaves four dead

REPORT A Pittsburgh television station says a shooting at a suburban health club has left four people dead, including the shooter.

KDKA said the killings were at the L.A. Fitness Center in Bridgeville, a community of about 5,000 residents not far from downtown Pittsburgh and the Pittsburg airport.

A witness told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette newspaper she was in an exercise class when a man came in a back door and started shooting. She said a friend of hers was among the wounded.

Gym member Lauren Dooley said she heard 12 to 15 shots. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Domtar reports profits double

Domtar Corp. shares surged yesterday after the pulp and paper giant reported strong results and said the global market for its products has stabilized. Shares closed up more than 26 per cent, gaining $5.36 to $25.82 in trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Porter spreads its wings to St. John's

AIRLINES Toronto's Porter Airlines is expanding its network in a tough economy and claims to be making money in the process.

Porter said yesterday it would begin flying to St. John's, N.L., on Oct. 5 as it continues to expand its reach into Atlantic Canada. CEO Robert Deluce said part of the reason for continuing to push into Atlantic Canada is that the region has not been as impacted by the economic recession.

Observers note the airline is building a new terminal and taking delivery of six new planes this year.

"They don't lay anybody off. They add new routes and they haven't parked any planes," said aviation analyst Rick Erickson.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TSX breaks 11,000 level

The Toronto stock market reached a symbolic landmark yesterday, closing above 11,000 points for the first time since Oct. 1 when investors began to realize that Canada was being dragged into a major recession.

The S&P/TSX composite index added 230.95 points or 2.14 per cent to close at 11,018.10, ending the first day of trading in August on an upbeat note after gaining more than four per cent throughout July.

But the index remains 4,000 points or 37 per cent below an all-time high of 15,154 set in June 2008.

John Johnston, chief strategist with the Harbour Group at RBC Dominion Securities, said the index is "just shy" of 11,317 — the point at which it will have retraced 50 per cent of its losses since financial markets began to crumble.

Johnston said positive data out of the manufacturing and housing sectors are driving the numbers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

China syndrome

- The TSX has benefited over the last few months on rising demand in China for metals, coal, oil and other resources, but that advance has been prone to volatile swings.

Moving up Condo sales soar

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Toronto area new condominium market rebounded in the second quarter as consumer confidence improved and developers offered incentives. Sales of condos hit 2,963 units, up 223 per cent from the dismal 917 sales in the first quarter, according to market research firm Urbanation Inc., which reported 4,893 sales of resale condos in the quarter, a new record high.

Business in brief

MEDIA Canwest Global Communications will have a smaller stake in its Australian media division as a result of a equity offering by Ten Network Holdings. The equity offering will raise $123.7 million in gross proceeds before expenses.

FACTORY Interfast Inc., a Toronto-based distributor of aerospace and industrial fasteners, says it will acquire Burwood Fastener Products of the U.K.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ford keeps ahead in auto sales

FIGURES Ford claimed top spot in Canadian auto sales for the second month in a row as the number of vehicles it sold in July rose by 47.4 per cent above the same month last year.

The company said yesterday it sold 26,788 vehicles in July. Truck sales were up 59.9 per cent to 21,668 while car sales rose by 10.9 per cent to 5,120.

Total year-to-date sales for Ford in Canada are 2.3 per cent higher than at the same time last year.

"People are noticing a difference at Ford and we'll stay focused on what matters most to consumers," Ford of Canada president and CEO David Mondragon said in a statement.

Ford was followed by General Motors, which saw its sales fall 41.6 per cent to 19,527 from 33,418.

Toyota Canada claimed third place with sales of 19,232 vehicles in its Toyota and Lexus brands, down 12.5 per cent from July 2008.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

6.4%

Light vehicle sales in Canada overall dropped by 6.4 per cent compared with a year ago to 139,901 from 149,515 in July 2008, according to DesRosiers Automotive Consultants.

New round of talks over Opel

AUTOS General Motors Co., the German government and two bidders are holding a new round of talks on the U.S. automaker's European Opel unit.

However, GM's chief negotiator, John Smith, says a decision on a buyer isn't imminent.

The two potential suitors for Opel are a consortium of Canadian car parts maker Magna International and Russian lender Sberbank, and Brussels-based investor RHJ International.

The government has made clear it prefers the bid from Magna, and stressed GM needs to take its views into account in deciding on a buyer because it is offering financial help to make a deal possible.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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HWY: 5.7L/100KM – 50 MPG CITY: 7.9L/100KM – 36 MPG◊

FIVE-STAR SAFETY RATING◊

G3 Wave 5-Door SE Model shown with CF5, D52 and PW8††

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HWY: 5.9L/100KM – 48 MPG CITY: 8.7L/100KM – 33 MPG◊

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FIVE-STAR SAFETY RATING◊

HWY: 6.2L/100KM – 46 MPG CITY: 8.0L/100KM – 35 MPG◊

Vibe GT model shown††

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G6 GT sedan model shown††

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Ticats take two weekly awards

DeAndra' Cobb, rookie running back of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, was named the CFL's offensive player of the week yesterday. Hamilton linebacker Jamall Johnson took home the defensive award, Arkee Whitlock of the Edmonton Eskimos was named special teams player of the week and Saskatchewan Roughriders slotback Chris Getzalf was top Canadian. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Zherdev a free agent

Nikolai Zherdev, left, has become an unrestricted free agent after the New York Rangers walked away from the $3.9-million US salary arbitration award to the winger. An arbitrator awarded Zherdev $3.9 million Sunday, $650,000 more than the $3.25-million qualifying offer tabled by the Rangers. Zherdev, 24, appeared in 82 games with the Rangers last season, recording 23 goals and 35 assists with 39 penalty minutes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Ecclestone tells German magazine F1 will return to Montreal in 2010

FORMULA ONE Throngs of race-loving glitterati and the roar of Formula One cars seem poised to return to Montreal with reports of a deal being struck between Canadian Grand Prix organizers and F1 supremo Bernie Ecclestone.

City officials aren't talking about any plans to reinstate the race, which is a cash cow for Montreal businesses and city, federal and provincial tax coffers, but Ecclestone has said a deal appears to be approaching the finish line.

Ecclestone told the latest edition of Motorsport Aktuell magazine that "we'll be driving in Montreal again in 2010."

However, he was more cautious in an interview with CBC Radio, saying, "We're doing our best to make sure it happens."

He said the deal will be official "when it's on the calendar," something he said could be announced within the next few weeks.

Ecclestone told CBC Radio that F1 only left Montreal because of financial problems with the promoters, adding, "we've got the very funny, old-fashioned idea that when we go somewhere we need to be paid."

Montreal was dropped from the 2009 F1 calendar after negotiations with race organizers collapsed. F1 wanted $175 million to keep the Montreal race on the 2009 schedule, but organizers and government balked.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ruling could be calm before the desert storm

The NHL, Jim Balsillie, various bidders, creditors and other interested parties with a stake in the Phoenix Coyotes are today waiting for a ruling from bankruptcy judge Redfield T. Baum, hoping to get some sense of the team's future.

The only sure bet is that, whatever the judge rules, someone is going to be severely ticked off.

Baum is expected to hand down a decision on how the Sept.10 auction of the Coyotes will be conducted, including whether Canadian billionaire Balsillie will be allowed to participate or whether it will be restricted to the two bidders who intend, after reworking the team's arena lease, to keep the team in the Phoenix suburb of Glendale.

Balsillie, of course, wants to move the team to Hamilton and is pursuing his purchase of the team even though he has been unanimously rejected by the NHL's governors as a potential owner.

But don't expect today's ruling to be definitive or for it to end the soap opera-like drama that has surrounded the Coyotes bankruptcy. Even Baum conceded that however the auction unfolds, it will likely be followed by endless litigation.

This case has been steeped in angry rhetoric and finger pointing. Even yesterday, reacting to confidential information leaked Friday — details of the concessions Jerry Reinsdorf was seeking from Glendale in his bid — Baum yesterday ordered Jerry Moyes, owner of the Coyotes, to show why he should not be held in contempt of court.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Yankees hold on to down Blue Jays

MLB RESULTS

New York 5 Toronto 3

AT

BASEBALL Roy Halladay returned to the mound last night for the first time since the non-waiver trade deadline passed, and gave up five runs during his fifth complete game in a 5-3 loss to the New York Yankees.

Halladay (11-5) was mostly dominant in this one and trailed 2-1 until surrendering back-to-back home runs to Johnny Damon and Mark Teixeira with two out in the eighth, and another solo blast to Hideki Matsui leading off the ninth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto catcher Rod Barajas fumbles the ball as New York's Alex Rodriguez slides into home plate last night.

Puerto Rico eliminates TFC

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Toronto 0 Puerto Rico 0

AT

SOCCER After improbably scoring six times in one game to qualify for the CONCACAF Champions League, Toronto FC bowed out of the tournament without scoring a single goal.

The Puerto Rico Islanders of the second-tier United Soccer Leagues held Major League Soccer's Toronto FC to a 0-0 draw last night to advance to the second round with a 1-0 aggregate win in the two-game series.

Toronto came into the game needing some offence after losing 1-0 to the Islanders at BMO Field in the first leg of the series. Toronto had some good scoring chances and even hit the post, but was unable to beat Islanders goalkeeper William Gaudette.

Toronto advanced to the tournament by winning the Canadian Nutrilite Championship over the USL's Montreal Impact and Vancouver Whitecaps.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

MARLIES The Toronto Maple Leafs promoted Dallas Eakins to head coach of their farm team yesterday. Eakins will move from his job as the Leafs' director of player development to coach of the AHL's Toronto Marlies.

CANUCKS Chris Zimmerman is stepping down as president and chief executive officer of the Vancouver Canucks. Zimmerman, a former Nike executive, is leaving the job he's held for the last three years for family reasons, the team said yesterday in a statement. Mike Gillis, the Canucks general manager, will also take on the role of president.

OLYMPICS Canada won't bid for the 2018 Winter Olympics, but is considering a bid to host the 2022 Games. The 2018 Games is too soon after next year's Vancouver Olympics for Canada to play host again, says Chris Rudge, the chief executive officer of the Canadian Olympic Committee.

BASEBALL Third baseman Scott Rolen got a CT scan that came back normal, an indication he could be back in the Cincinnati Reds' lineup within a few days. Rolen was beaned on the left side of the head by a pitch from Jason Marquis on Sunday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

YESTERDAY

N.Y. Yankees 5 Toronto 3
Baltimore 8 Detroit 2
Minnesota 10 Cleveland 1
Boston at Tampa Bay
Seattle at Kansas City
L.A. Angels at Chicago W. Sox
Texas at Oakland

TODAY

N.Y. Yankees at **TORONTO**
Baltimore at Detroit
Minnesota at Cleveland
Boston at Tampa Bay
Seattle at Kansas City
L.A. Angels at Chicago W. Sox
Texas at Oakland

NATIONAL LEAGUE

YESTERDAY

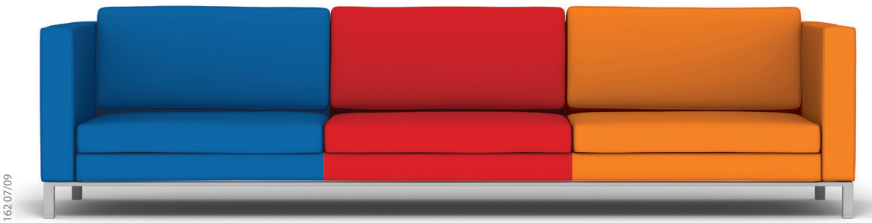
Arizona 6 Pittsburgh 0
Chicago Cubs 6 Cincinnati 3
Colorado 8 Philadelphia 3
Washington 6 Florida 4
St. Louis at N.Y. Mets
San Francisco at Houston
Atlanta at San Diego
Milwaukee at L.A. Dodgers

TODAY

St. Louis at N.Y. Mets
San Francisco at Houston
Atlanta at San Diego
Arizona at Pittsburgh
Colorado at Philadelphia
Florida at Washington
Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati
Milwaukee at L.A. Dodgers

The True Home Phone Comparison

Bell $46.89 Rogers $42.36 Telehop $9.94



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Roenick ready to retire
San Jose Sharks forward Jeremy Roenick is expected to announce his retirement tomorrow, ending the NHL star's 20-year career. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big Bert worth considering

TheHockeyNews
Brian Costello
thehockeynews.com

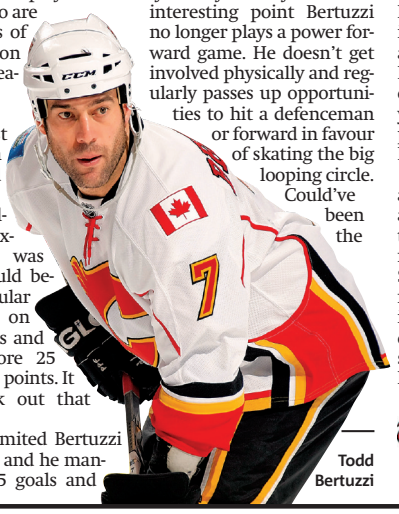
The glass of available unrestricted free agents out there is as half-full or half-empty as you want it to be.

There are many players still on the market and unfortunately a good chunk of them will never again play in the NHL. If you consider yourself picky, you might look at the UFA list and say there are only a couple names worth considering.

One UFA who continues to catch my eye is the enigmatic Todd Bertuzzi.

Say what you want about Big Bert and his past crimes of poor judgment, he can still be a useful player on a handful of teams.

The days of Bertuzzi being a 40-goal scorer and point-a-game player are long gone. So are the stipends of $5 million plus per season.



Bertuzzi spent last season in Calgary and earned $1.95 million. The expectation was Bertuzzi could become a regular contributor on the top lines and perhaps score 25 goals and 60 points. It didn't work out that way.

Injuries limited Bertuzzi to 66 games and he managed just 15 goals and 44 points despite premium minutes with skilled linemates.

Last spring on the eve of the NHL playoffs, CBC analyst Kelly Hrudey made the interesting point Bertuzzi no longer plays a power forward game. He doesn't get involved physically and regularly passes up opportunities to hit a defenceman or forward in favour of skating the big looping circle. Could've been the bad knee he was skating on, but that's not Darryl Sutter hockey.

The Flames are right up against the salary cap this season after signing Jay Bouwmeester and had no interest in keeping Bertuzzi at anywhere close to $2 million. So what does Bertuzzi do at age 34 and his glory years of being a productive power forward clearly behind him?

Secondary production is an issue for a lot of teams and that's why I think there's still room in the NHL for Big Bert. Probably not for $1.95 million, but perhaps for $1.5 million, and maybe in a market that's a little under the radar. There are still some decent seasons left for Bertuzzi.

— Todd Bertuzzi

The Hockey News thn.com

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Continuing Education

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Adult learners in demand

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

From jewelry-making to project management, continuing education programs across the country have a lot to offer.

Academic institutions are stepping up their game in the continuing education department in response to overwhelming demand for professional and personal growth programs.

At the University of Ottawa, there's been a 15 per cent increase in demand for continuing education programs, says Serge Blais, director of continuing education for the school.

The majority of their learners are government employees.

"They're trying to keep their skills above par," he said.

Some of the more popular programs are those dealing with project management or presentation skills, where students learn how to effectively facilitate meetings, manage interdisciplinary teams and do voice training.

While soft skills like these are gaining in popularity in these tough economic times, more technical skills are also gaining steam.

One of the high-demand certificates at Dalhousie University's College of Continuing Education in Halifax is the certification program in Home Inspection.

"It started last year and it's been growing in popularity every semester," said Robert Moffatt, marketing manager for the college.

The certificate involves 10 modules that are 42 hours and cost $530 each.

On the opposite coast, spots in the jewelry-making classes with the Vancouver School Board's continuing education department are getting snapped up almost as quickly as they go online.

"It's like people are sitting there with their finger on the mouse, ready to register," said Andy Gauthier, program co-ordinator with the department.

The increasingly competitive job market is responsible for the boom in continued learning, said Jim Fremlin, co-ordinator at a Toronto employment resource centre.

An interest in lifelong learning looks good on any resumé, he added.

"That's a good indicator of an engaged person and someone who's going to be an engaged employee," said Fremlin, co-ordinator of the Parliament Street Employment Resource Centre with the Centre for Training and Education.

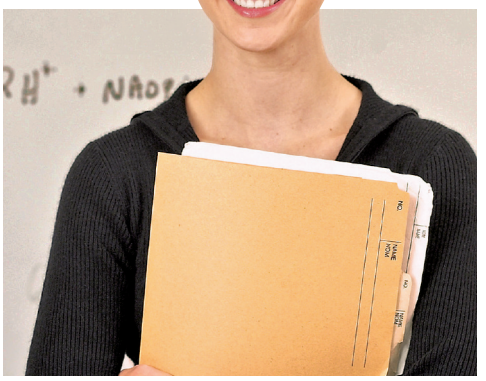
For professional development, soft skills programs like the new certificate in Leadership Performance at Dalhousie are in demand.

The certificate includes courses on communication, mediation and presentation skills.

"It's the nuts and bolts of keeping an organization moving forward," said Pam Williams, program director.

But special interest courses — such as Direct And Produce Your Own Film or a variety of new fine art courses at George Brown College — are also generating a lot of buzz.

Fremlin said although employers like to see continued learning specifically related to a job, any demonstrated interest in lifelong learning, including personal growth courses, can give an employee the edge they need when applying for jobs, interviewing or even just moving within an organization.



An interest in learning looks good on a resumé, experts say.

The good new is continuing education courses and certificates are offered on evenings and weekends, are easy on the wallet and can usually be completed at the learner's own pace.

And if the course you're looking for is not available, continuing education departments try their best to fulfil your needs.

"Sometimes we're offering courses based on students telling us what they want," said Cheryl Dunn, of the Centre for Continuous Learning at George Brown.

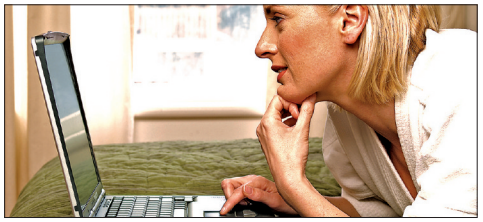
Distance education a hit for those balancing family, career

RICHARD WOODBURY
for Metro Canada

Online and distance learning in continuing education have become a part of everyday life.

"It's become mainstream," says Kevin Nagel, the dean of the JR Shaw School of Business at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton. One of the big reasons is convenience.

"(That) has a lot to do with it," says Chris Beckett, the co-ordinator of instructional television at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax.



Students like the convenience of online learning, experts say.

"People are busier and busier," he says, noting it can be tough to fit learning into one's schedule while balancing a career, family and other responsibilities.

The convenience factor also means students can study from some unlikely spots. Beckett says one former student who was a member of the Armed Forces took an accounting exam in a submarine from the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

"That was a highlight for a long time," he says.

The lack of geographical boundaries allows schools to connect with potential students worldwide.

"To be competitive you have to give the learner a choice," wrote Janet Welch from Red Deer College in an email. "Education used to be regionally based. It is not anymore. It is truly global."

Welch is the chairperson and curriculum designer of the school's centre for teaching and learning.

But the growth in online and distance learning hasn't come at the expense of traditional enrolment, says Mark Bullen, the associate dean of the learning and teaching centre at the British Columbia Institute of Technology in Burnaby.

"It's definitely complementary. Online courses don't compete with the face-to-face courses."

But it's not for everybody, cautions Bullen. It requires individuals to be self-motivated and mature.

It may come as a surprise, but the interactions between students can be greater than they would experience in a classroom setting. "In a well-designed online course, students will often find that they get much more one-on-one support and interaction with their instructor than they do in a face-to-face class," says Bullen.

This differs from classes in lecture halls where "it's very difficult to actually have any kind of meaningful interaction with your instructor," he says.

Whether online or in the classroom, one thing remains the same.

"You have to do the work," says Beckett. "You have to read. You have to research. You have to do the writing. You have to take the exam. None of that has changed."

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Seneca offers chance to understand your dog

LEYLA EMORY
for Metro Canada

Forget the rhinestone collars and pet-i-cures. Show your pooch you really care by taking the time to understand.

Starting this fall, Seneca will be offering its workshop on Understanding Canine Behaviour to the general public out of the Markham campus.

"The program has been offered since 2002 at our King City campus as part of the veterinary technician program," says Laura Mandell, manager of public affairs and media relations at Seneca. "Traditionally, it was geared to those dealing with canine behaviour at a professional capacity. This year it's being expanded to dog owners."

But don't expect to simply get a few nifty tricks out of your pup. "I am not a dog trainer," says Kerry Vinson, who has been teaching the course for the past seven years. "This is not about teaching your dog to sit and stand."

Vinson's three-hour seminar deals with identifying and solving canine behaviour problems.

"I started doing this because most people are unaware that a large percentage of the total dog population is destroyed because of behaviour problems," says Vinson. "It's a real unnecessary loss of life, not to mention a source of grief for many of these dogs' owners. In the U.S., it's estimated that one-half of all dogs are euthanized because of their behaviour before they reach the age of two. In my mind, this illustrates how little people know about dog behaviour."

In the past few years, Vinson's course has had a steady attendance of more than 40 people, making it impossible to allow students to bring their dogs.

"It would be a bit of anarchy," says Vinson. "However, at the conclusion of the presentation, there's an extended question-and-answer period. I don't want anyone to walk out of there without having their question answered as best I can."

It's 'Buffy meets Socrates'

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Love, death and vampires — let's just say this isn't your mother's English course.

Vampirology: Literature with Bite, a course offered by the University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies, lets students examine the supernatural spooks in all their blood-sucking, page-turning splendour while also raising powerful questions about death, sex and power.

With vampire tales like Twilight and True Blood heating up the big and small screens respectively, the time is ripe for a study of the original literature that serves as a basis for the mythical, iconic figures.

Dr. Hilary E. Davis, instructor of the eight-week course that starts Sept. 23, dubs the class "Buffy (the Vampire Slayer) meets Socrates" and says she hopes to demonstrate to people that vampire stories can be as rich with meanings and metaphors as other forms of literature. Books by famed authors like Bram Stoker, Anne Rice, Octavia E. Butler and Stephenie Meyer round out the reading list and Davis hopes students will discover a few delectable new reads among the roster.

The University of Toronto's Vampirology: Literature with Bite focuses on vampire tales, much like Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

"Literature is about the possible — it's about how things could be. Vampires are hot right now and I think these are all great books," Davis said.

Gordon Davies, head of Languages, Arts and Science at the School of Continuing Studies at the University of Toronto, says the course is meant as a chance for people who love vampire and occult stories but never had the time to get immersed in the best the genre has to offer.

"It's an area of modern literature that attracts a lot of people and students want some introduction to how it all fits together," Davies said.

Thought-provoking discussions into the philosophical issues behind the literature will be the focus of the non-evaluative course and Davis hopes students will enjoy sharing their reactions to the tough questions raised by the stories as much as they enjoy the fantasy aspects.

"I'm interested in questions about human nature, issues of death and aging and what it means to be human, what it means to exist. There's a strong attraction for people to the otherworldly right now because there's something very appealing about the romanticism of these characters," Davis said.

Of course, Davis admits a good scare and the allure of the undying are no small part of the genre's popularity.

"The eroticism and metaphysical aspect of the literature is attractive to people — everybody wants to live forever," Davis said.

For more information, visit learn.utoronto.ca.

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Landscape design program gets facelift

ERIC EMIN WOOD
for Metro Canada

One of Ryerson's more venerable continuing education programs is undergoing renovations.

This fall, the Chang school's 30-year-old landscape design certificate will officially unveil its 21st-century facelift, says Peter Monkhouse, Ryerson's program director of engineering, architecture and science.

Computers have had a major impact on landscape design, Monkhouse says.

"The ability to use the Internet as a resource, to search and find out information about plants, wasn't around 30 years ago," he says.

Computers have also had an impact on drawing. "Those beautiful hand-drawn sketches that landscape designers would do, and many of them still do, a lot of it can now be done on computer-based design tools," Monkhouse says. To that end, the school has built a course around DynaSCAPE, a popular landscape design program.

Another overhaul is time commitment.

"Students have told us they need to get the program completed in as short a period of time as possible," says Monkhouse. "We've reduced the number of courses from eight to six, and we've scheduled them so a student can complete the program in 12 months."

Students can now complete Ryerson University's landscape design program — and create gardens like this one — in 12 months.

Many updates had already been implemented, says Monkhouse, but these were much more "systematic."

Like many Ryerson programs, the instructors in landscape design are all, "with one exception," working in the business, says Monkhouse.

"Some of them run their own firms and they do the teaching because they enjoy it," he says. "Others work for the city doing landscape design. So the instructors teach not only the theory but how it can be applied from their personal experience."

The program also utilizes field trips. "We run a couple of courses at the Toronto Botanical Gardens," says Monkhouse. "And most of our instructors have an extensive collection of photographs that they bring to show the students various elements and how things work."

One course, Landscape Design Studio, invites students to "build a scale model of a given space and show how they would design the landscaping around that to make it welcoming for the community," Monkhouse says.

"We encourage students to take the studio course towards the end of their program, so they can bring what they've learned together and see how it all fits."

Ryerson's next landscape design certificate program begins next month. Courses cost around $600 each.

For more, visit ryerson.ca/ce/landscape.

Photography workshop focuses on 'why'

ERIC EMIN WOOD
for Metro Canada

Bob Hundert, the co-instructor of Sheridan College's Algonquin Digital Workshop, is quick to emphasize he and co-instructor John Jones are not running a "how-to" course.

"It's a why," Hundert says. "Anybody can pick up a book and figure out how to take a picture. Instead of taking a student and saying, 'There's an oak tree, here's how you take a picture of that oak tree,' we say, 'Here's what you're seeing — how do you feel about it?' And then we teach them how to migrate those feelings into a digital format."

The workshop takes place during a weekend in October, and is part applied photography class, part retreat. "The Algonquin backdrop provides a beautiful, relaxing location for us. Our lectures are even done in an old rustic lodge with a crackling fireplace in the background," says Hundert.

"Many people bring their families up for the weekend, so the family stays at the cottage while the student is out with us," Hundert says.

The idea for a creative photography workshop came to Hundert "six or seven years ago," he says. "John (Jones) and I were sitting down to coffee one day, and I said to him, what's creativity? Where does it come from? And we couldn't come up with an answer."

Hundert discovered the source of creativity had never been researched, and it became his master's thesis. "I was actually able to discover where creativity exists," he says, "and that's how John and I came up with this."

And where does creativity come from? "You're not inspired by what's around you so much as your interpretation of what's around you," Hundert says. "It all depends on who you are, your cultural background, your principles, your ethos, and how you express that through your art."

Now in its sixth year, the workshop has been so successful that Hundert and Jones will begin offering a second course in Niagara-on-the-Lake in spring 2010.

The next Algonquin Digital Workshop starts Oct. 3. Registration is open until Sept. 19. Cost is $399 plus accommodations, which typically run between $75 and $250 for the weekend.

For more information, visit www1.sheridaninstitute.ca/programs/coned/algonquin.

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George Brown chocolatier class coming soon

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

For all you chocolate lovers out there, it might come as a bit of a surprise to learn the delicious treat can be a bit temperamental.

"You need a relationship with the chocolate; it requires a lot of patience," says Jennifer Lakhan-D'Souza.

The chef instructor at George Brown College is in the final stages of developing the new Professional Chocolatier Certificate for the school's continuing education department.

The certificate includes five courses — Introduction to Chocolate, Chocolate Confections, Chocolate Desserts, Chocolate Showpieces and Chocolate Theory — which debut January 2010.

It was created in response to the growth of artisanal chocolate-making in Toronto and provides the fundamental skills for budding chocolatiers.

"It's a very specialized skill that a lot of pastry chefs are lacking," says Lakhan-D'Souza.

The Professional Chocolatier Certificate debuts in 2010.

Her own skills with chocolate have evolved over time.

For the past 12 years she's worked as a pastry chef, but along the way she has sought to improve her skills with chocolate, taking specialty courses and learning as much as she could about the medium.

When an advisory board at George Brown's Chef School decided they wanted to see growth in the area of chocolate, they approached Lakhan-D'Souza.

"I really enjoy working with chocolate," she said.

"There are some people who want nothing to do with it."

It's a challenging and finicky substance to work with and she tells her students, "You can't get frustrated and angry with the chocolate because then it won't work for you."

Like many specialized skills, Lakhan-D'Souza says, there are those who just "get it" and those who don't.

The Professional Chocolatier Certificate is aimed at professionals and experienced hobbyists. Students will learn how to make confections and candies, desserts and show pieces along with specific skills like tempering chocolate for treats like truffles.

When asked if it's tough to work with chocolate without giving in to temptation, Lakhan-D'Souza said tucking in to it just becomes part of the job.

"When I'm working with chocolate, I'm tasting all the time," she said.

The courses for the certificate are offered on evenings and weekends at George Brown College.

Introduction to Chocolate — which must be completed first — begins Jan. 14, 2010, and costs $273 for 35 hours of instruction.

Local schools make it easy to put on your dancing shoes

LEYLA EMORY
for Metro Canada

Thanks to the onslaught of reality TV dance shows, the answer to So You Think You Can Dance? is 'Yes.'

"A lot of people have always wanted to learn how to dance but didn't feel it was right for them," says Sharon Galor, owner of Toronto Dance Salsa Inc. "Then they see it on TV and think, why not?"

Specializing in beginners, Toronto Dance Salsa has grown from 300 to 1,500 students a semester within the past five years. Galor is particularly thankful to Dancing with the Stars. "You're taking someone who's never danced before and within a few weeks you're seeing them progress. It's really inspiring to watch."

It's a progression she tries to emulate in the nine-week course. "You start off as an absolute beginner, meaning you don't even know the basic steps. We go through teaching basic steps into basic turns into combinations and by the end of the month, you can feel comfortable going out to a salsa club or a social event and being able to actually dance to the songs."

Classes are made up of 40 people and can be taken in a couple or as an individual.

Ilona Kamecki, owner and teacher of Dance District, agrees that group dances are a lot of fun but offers a more individual approach. "I prefer people to have at least three or four private lessons before they go to any clubs," says Kamecki. "First, they need to learn about themselves and who they are on the dance floor, (and) what kind of mistakes they're making and how to correct them."

But the bottom line is having fun. Like most dance schools in the city, both Toronto Dance Salsa and Dance District have dance parties anywhere from once a week to once a month, where their students can put their moves into play.

"People don't realize how much dancing can give them," says Kamecki. "The opportunity to dance with someone and be close and talk is a very important part of our lives."

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Culinary classes eaten up

EVA LAM
for Metro Canada

How do you de-bone a chicken? What is the best way to temper chocolate? And just what in the world is nigiri? Chef Frederick Oh has the answers for you.

The world-renowned chef is the primary instructor at the Richmond Hill Culinary Arts Centre, which has partnered with Seneca College to offer an array of recreational cooking classes for beginners and advanced students alike.

"About three years ago we did a party for the school, and that's when they saw the facilities and they thought it would be a good addition to their (curriculum)," recalls Oh, who has won such prestigious awards as the Culinary Olympics in Germany and the American Culinary Federation Award.

Most of the classes, which can range from eight to 12 students, are three-hour, one-night workshops that focus on a special-interest subject.

A popular course at the Richmond Hill Culinary Centre — which has partnered with Seneca College — is the Art of Sushi.

"They're for people who want to expand their cooking skills," says Linda Wren, academic co-ordinator in the faculty of continuing education and training at Seneca.

"For instance, we do Spanish cooking or Italian cuisine ... and then we have a series of cooking with different meats — cooking with poultry, cooking with beef, cooking with seafood — and, of course, vegetarian cuisine."

One of the most popular courses is the Art of Sushi, says Wren. The class addresses everything from the seasoning of sushi rice and preparation of miso soup, to techniques for making maki (roll) sushi and nigiri sushi — a small nugget of rice with a topping of fish, egg or vegetable.

Students, who eventually get to eat what they make, learn in a fully equipped, state-of-the-art kitchen. After watching Oh make a sample dish, they create the same dishes under his supervision.

"If you come to the class and you know nothing about sushi, by the end of the evening you will make very good rice; you'll be able to roll and make nigiri," says Oh, though he cautions that students would need many years of practice to achieve the artistry and speed of professional chefs.

For students seeking a more in-depth experience, the school also offers a fundamental culinary repertoire course. Beginning with classic French cooking techniques, students learn over six classes how to grill, sauté, braise, make stocks and sauces, and more.

The curriculum has grown over time to include new courses, such as a recently introduced Thai-style fruit and vegetable carving class. Oh plans to expand his popular Chocolate Works course, which currently focuses on hand-rolled truffles, to include pralines in the near future, as well as focus more on the nutrition aspect of cooking.

For a list of classes scheduled for fall 2009 and information on how to register, visit culinaryarts.ca.

Seminar targets 'smart' divorce

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Worrying about divorce and its complications? It may be time to go back to school.

A three-hour seminar titled The Smart Divorce is being offered by Centennial College's School of Continuing Education to help people understand the challenging complications involved in a legal marital split.

The seminar, part of Centennial's Life and Career Skills division, offers tips and strategies for dealing with all aspects of divorce, including the legal and emotional components of divorce, how it affects children and parents alike, how to look for lawyers and deal with them efficiently and effectively, and where to turn for support.

"The course is for people who are contemplating it or are in the situation, experiencing the divorce process already," said Mary Devine, chair of Centennial's School of Continuing Education. "People can take away some strategies, skills and an increased confidence to work through their own situation."

Instructor and divorce consultant Deborah Moskovitch, author of The Smart Divorce, will head up the course.

Moskovitch went through her own messy divorce years ago and wants to pass the lessons she learned on to others who have never experienced the whirlwind of emotions and legal tangles at the root of any divorce. Most important of all, she hopes to instill a sense of hope in people worried that divorce is the end of the line emotionally.

"I truly believe that you can build a better life than you had before. Even if you were a victim, you have to rise above it and really find that happiness," she said.

Moskovitch says attendance in the course in previous sittings has been almost an even 50/50 split among men and women.

The Smart Divorce runs on Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Centennial and costs $32. For more information, visit centennialcollege.ca.

Courses can help even novice cooks impress

EVA LAM
for Metro Canada

When it comes to weekends and special occasions, preparing a great meal for family and friends can be the cherry on top of the sundae.

Now, even novice cooks can impress thanks to two new continuing education courses at Humber College, Brunch and Holiday Entertaining in the Kitchen.

These are just two of a dozen culinary courses the school is introducing this year in response to interest, says Humber instructor and chef Anne-Marie Ellis.

The four-hour, one-off classes are for "anybody who is a foodie, who loves to cook, loves to entertain, and really wants to learn proper technique," she says.

As with all of Humber's cooking courses, students will receive guidance from a culinary pro. The instructor will be either a Certified Chef de Cuisine or in the process of earning that accreditation, the highest professional culinary recognition in Canada.

In the brunch course, students will learn how to create a crowd-pleasing grand petite dejeuner. Among the food that will be prepared are breakfast meats, potatoes and egg dishes.

Meanwhile, the holiday course will give students tips on planning a range of events, from the conventional sit-down dinner to a cocktail reception or a buffet.

Compared to regular entertaining, people expect holiday entertaining to be more refined, says Ellis. At the same time, the course menu will take into account the short duration of the class.

"That gives us the opportunity to come out with some simple but really good dishes that can be done in a short timeframe, and still show the skill level and the ingenuity that you're looking for in something like a holiday menu," she says.

For more information, visit humber.ca/continuingeducation.

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Metro Workology exclusive: Backstage Pass

In the coming weeks Metro's Workology section will be focusing on the part of the entertainment industry that you DON'T see. Backstage Pass will focus on the careers behind the camera and the curtain. So be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work every day.

Workology

Carleton calls for reinstatement

Last week, 22 faculty members of Carleton University's sociology and anthropology department held an ad-hoc meeting in which they unanimously passed a resolution regarding the university's termination of Hassan Diab, who is accused of participating in a fatal bombing nearly 30 years ago. The faculty members call the dismissal a violation of university procedures and call for Diab's reinstatement. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Workology in **brief**

PENSIONS According to Statistics Canada, only 25 per cent of Canada's private sector workers had a workplace pension plan in 2005. As a result, five provincial finance ministers are currently in talks over a proposal to set up a separate national pension system in order to avoid a potential pension crisis.

EI BENEFITS Due to the global economic downturn, more and more Canadians are turning to employment insurance. According to Statistics Canada, the number of Canadians collecting EI benefits rose by 65,600 people from April to May, totaling 778,700 – the highest rate in 12 years.

–HEATHER BUCHAN

As an extra, blend in and let the stars shine

Backstage **Pass**

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Most actors dream of starring on the silver screen but for Doris Debellis and her daughter Alexandra, staying in the background is perfectly fine — and fun.

The mother and daughter team do background performance work playing short, unheralded roles that nevertheless appear on-camera. They are booked onto film and television sets, sometimes together, through the Background Players and Morgan Rickman talent agencies and Doris says that unlike the fantasy of hobnobbing with movie stars all day, background performing involves a lot of waiting and patience.

"Finding things to keep you busy on-set is important. You take little short naps or you read a book, you bring your laptop to pass the time. There's a lot of sitting and waiting," Doris said.

Sometimes referred to as movie extras, background performers generally appear in non-speaking roles, often in the literal background of a scene.

Contrary to naïve hopes that one might get "discovered" on-set, real background performers are simply there to do a job and realize the gig isn't going to get their foot in any Hollywood doors. Most consider getting paid to hang around movie sets a pretty sweet gig, even if the paycheque isn't huge.

For non-unionized extras, the pay usually comes in at about $8.50 per hour of background work, minus an agency commission. As members of the actors' union, ACTRA, Doris and Alexandra command closer to $21.50 per hour.

Doris, 48, was a professional dancer and singer before she started doing background work about 16 years ago to pass the time and bring in some income after having a baby. Her first role was in the film RoboCop 3 and since then she has gone on to do roles in movies, television and commercials.

Alexandra, 19, had her first gig in the 1995 Antonio Banderas and Rebecca De Mornay film Never Talk to Strangers when she was five years old. She briefly appeared as Banderas' daughter and by some stroke of luck, Banderas also picked Doris for a background role in the film despite having no idea they were mother and daughter.

For Doris, one of her best moments was getting to meet her idol, Bette Midler, on the set of the 1997 film That Old Feeling. She chatted with Midler about motherhood and performing and says Midler was extremely down-to-earth and charming. She also ran into a flirty Colin Farrell on one set — but had no idea who he was at the time.

"I didn't really know who he was because I had never seen him before. Two weeks later I saw him on the cover of Vanity Fair," she joked.

Doris' other three teenage children have also gotten in on the act doing background performing, which makes her happy because each time she travels with them to a set (or gets booked together) it means more quality time she can spend with them.

"I tell my kids to embrace the work," she said.

Movie extras Doris Debellis, left, and her daughter Alexandra.

'Extra' tips

- Rules of working as a background performer:
- Never talk to the actors, on or off the set, unless they invite the conversation. Interrupting Robert Deniro's concentration to tell him how great you think he is will not exactly get you invited to future shoots;
- Be respectful and follow orders to the letter — if you're just supposed to "walk left" don't start doing weird embellishments or you'll ruin the shot;
- Cellphones and chewing gum are not allowed on set so leave them at home;
- Be aware of where you're supposed to be and never look at the camera!

For more of the Backstage Pass exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by: metronews.ca/work

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Isotopes pitched around by University of Winnipeg
The University of Winnipeg and Acsion Industries, a Manitoba-based provider of electron beam treated products and services, have submitted to the federal government a joint bid expressing interest in becoming medical isotope suppliers. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Contracts not mandatory

WorkplaceLaw

It's possibly the worst fraud in workplace law — corporations, with expensive lawyers and deeper pockets, requiring their employees to sign one-sided employment contracts that reduce their legal rights. And employees, without bargaining power or an understanding of the law, not realizing their interests have been undermined.

What most people don't understand is that a written employment contract is not a requirement of employment. This is because the law implies a number of essential terms and conditions, such as termination, fair treatment and duration among others, and it does so whether or not they are written down. However, as many of those implied terms are considered too employee-generous, most companies insist that employees sign contracts that reduce those implied rights. Employees then unknowingly agree to be eliminated with minimum notice, demoted, see their salary slashed and prevented from competition following their departure — all with legal impunity.

Don't misunderstand. Employees are not entirely without recourse. The Supreme Court has recognized the unique nature of the employment contract and the inherent power imbalance when negotiating terms. As a result, judges have created various devices to prevent unfairness. If the contract is ambiguous, illegal, provides less than employment standards legislation or is entered into under duress or coercion, it may be set aside.

While these devices provide a level of protection, they still ignore some fundamental truths. First, employees seldom negotiate contracts and if they do, it's rarely on equal footing. Either they fear the job offer will be withdrawn and offered to a competitor or they are simply told the language will not be changed. In today's job market, their fears are not unfounded. Employers, then, usually have their way.

How do these contracts affect workers? In a file my law firm is handling, the employee had been recruited away from a large American technology firm where he worked for eight years, to join a Canadian competitor. Before he began, he signed what he was told was a "standard form" contract. Six months later he was fired.

It was a simple win — or so he thought. He had a strong claim to make his new employer responsible for the severance he was owed from his old job. But the contract he signed specifically prevents him from making that claim and worse, limits his damages to only one week's pay. Although the conclusion to his case will probably be based on other factors that are involved, there is one certainty: Without that contract, his case would be stronger.

What should employees do? Challenge the enforceability of these contracts, where the facts present them with that argument. I have won in court by raising the inference that a signed contract was without proper consent — such findings are not exceptions. Have any new contract reviewed with a lawyer and don't be reluctant to renegotiate terms.

FOR THE FULL ARTICLE, VISIT METRONEWS.CA/WORKPLACELAW

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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Beware summer heat inside car
If left inside a vehicle during a hot, summer day, babies can become distressed in just five minutes, and in less than 40 minutes, a child or pet could suffer severe dehydration or heat stroke. SOURCE: B.C. AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION

Metro Drive

Kizashi coming
Suzuki recently debuted the 2010 Kizashi, the company's first entry into the all-wheel drive sport sedan segment. The flagship model arrives in North America this winter.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

VW Eos: Hello sunshine

Weekend trips made easy with roomy convertible

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

There really aren't any bad convertibles on a sunny day, but some are better than others, and the Volkswagen Eos is a very good one.

At a base price of $35,975, it isn't cheap. But it holds four people, and its retractable hardtop (no soft roof is available) means it can comfortably handle winter weather as well.

Based on the Rabbit platform, the Eos uses a 200-horsepower turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine, with a six-speed manual or optional six-speed Direct Shift Gearbox (DSG) in Trendline or Comfortline trim. My top-line Silver-Red Edition tester comes only with the DSG, and starts at $44,575.

The DSG, also called a dual-clutch, is probably one of the best developments since transmissions first learned to shift themselves. It contains two gearboxes with clutches between them, one with even-numbered gears, the other with odd-numbered. As soon as you're in first gear, the other side has second gear ready, so the shifts are almost immediate. Once that's done, third gear gets ready, and so on. These transmissions are silky-smooth and all but seamless, along with increased fuel economy.

The retractable roof puts on quite a show when it operates, although it's so complicated that I'd think about an extended warranty for long-term ownership. Unusually, it includes an integrated sunroof, which can be slid open when the top is up.

The roof folds into the trunk, and there's enough space when it's down that you can stow luggage for a weekend trip. The rear seat includes a pass-through for longer items such as skis.

The Eos is great to drive: power comes on smoothly, torque steer is well-managed, handling is accurate and the steering is nicely weighted. Even when the top is down, it feels confidently solid and tight, with no rattles or cowl shake.

Volkswagen seats aren't cushy, which leads some to question their comfort; the secret is in the support they provide. Spend any length of time in the Eos' front seats and you'll understand. The rear seat provides more headroom than expected with the roof up, but it's a chore to squeeze back there, and the chairs are narrow.

Interior materials are good-quality and precisely fitted, with just enough metallic trim to look good but not garish. Big dials and simple controls make it easy to make adjustments with little time spent looking away from the road, and the two upper trims include dual-zone automatic climate control that you can set once and then forget.

All models include such features as A/C, cruise control, automatic locks, side airbags, rollover protection system, anti-lock brakes and electronic stability control.

Based on the Rabbit platform, the Volkswagen Eos is a convertible for both summer and winter.

2009 Volkswagen Eos

Type: Sports convertible
Price: from $35,975
Engine: 2L four-cylinder turbocharged
HP: 200

Highlights

- Hold four people
- Dual-clutch technology ensures smooth shifting
- Functional interior

Interior materials are good-quality and precisely fitted, with just enough metallic trim to look good but not garish.

2010 Acura RDX.

2010 Acura RDX ready to go on sale

NEW MODEL The 2010 Acura RDX goes on sale across Canada next week with a fresh new exterior look, a more luxurious interior, new technology features and improved fuel economy.

Externally, the CUV receives numerous changes resulting in a more aggressive, sporty appearance. RDX exterior styling further emphasizes the crossover's sporty athleticism.

Large wheel arches, aggressively raked body sides, steeply raked windscreen and a short rear overhang generate a taut and muscular presence.

RDX also gets a new front fascia, Acura's signature front grille, a hood with a new front edge design and updated HID headlights.

The RDX receives several new standard interior features, including a rear view camera system, electronic compass, a pull handle to make closing the rear hatch easier, auto-function headlights, ambient footwell lighting, a centre console storage tray, improved cupholders, USB-port connectivity, and Note function for XM Radio.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

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It's Fiesta time

Six Ford Fiestas have arrived in Halifax from Europe, in preparation for a cross-country tour. The vehicles will provide many Canadian consumers their first opportunity to see the model. The North American version arrives in Canada next summer. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Clunkers are people too

Canada already has a scrappage program called Retire Your Ride which offers people various incentives for turning in their clunkers.

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

metronews.ca/autopilot

What do you make of this "cash for clunkers" deal?

I think I'll sit on the fence on this one for a bit longer, because it affords a good view, and that allows me to emulate my hero, Yogi Berra, who once wisely remarked, "you can observe a lot just by watching."

For those of you not following the story, "cash for clunkers" is the unofficial name of a U.S. program that pays owners $3,500 to $4,500 if they trade-in and scrap their "clunkers" for new, fuel-efficient vehicles.

This is supposed to stimulate the economy and "green" the fleet.

The U.S. got the idea from Germany, who started its "cash for clunkers" program back in January (though they called it something like "Knockwurst oder Marks for Autos das Crappy und Kaput").

As "stimulus" to buy new vehicles, the programs are widely successful. The U.S. program was scheduled to run from July 28 through Nov. 1, 2009, or when the allocated funds of U.S.$1 billion were exhausted, whichever came first.

The money didn't last a week.

Canadian Environment Minister, Jim Prentice, publicly stated he'd announce a decision by September, whether Canada will pony up for such a heightened scrappage program.

A lot of people are unaware that we've always had scrappage programs. The latest iteration, called Retire Your Ride, was introduced this past January. It is funded by Environment Canada and managed by the Clean Air Foundation (CAF).

Under this program, owners of vehicles made during or before 1995 can scrap their vehicles in exchange for various incentives, like public transit passes, membership in car sharing programs, discounts toward the purchase of a bicycle, or $300 in cash. Incentives vary by province and are delivered by local agencies working with CAF.

"$300 is not nearly enough to get somebody to give up a road-worthy clunker, but $3,500 to $4,500 will certainly do the trick."

So far, this has not induced droves of Canadians to trade in their pre-1995 vehicles. What we've learned recently then, is that $300 is not nearly enough to get somebody to give up a road-worthy clunker, but $3,500 to $4,500 will certainly do the trick and then some — and might in fact be overkill.

Canadian politicians are wavering, and U.S. politicians are in a huge debate about whether to continue the program, because, well, it's a hell of a lot of money to spend on one sector of the economy, even with the expected benefits to the environment.

On those matters I'll let them grapple. What I'm mulling over, up on my fence post, is how a successful scrappage program of any stripe might erode the honourable tradition of "clunker culture."

A lot of us have had to drive a clunker sometime in our lives and I'd like to think we're better people for it. We've learned how to rip duct tape with our bare hands and bare teeth, how to twist off a hot radiator cap with someone else's sweatshirt, and how to accept certain and inevitable calamities with maybe not grace, but at least something in that general direction.

Where are we going to learn stuff like that, when all the 1991 Chevy Cavaliers are gone?

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

© 2009 Audi Canada. †Whichever occurs first. Maximum coverage available if there is remaining coverage from the Audi New Vehicle Limited Warranty. Audi CPO Limited Warranty effective for up to the earlier of 2 years/40,000 km. *Limited time finance offer available through Audi Finance, on approved credit. 0.9% APR financing available for up to 24 months on all 2004-2009 A4 models. Example: MSRP of $27,900.00 for a 2006 Audi A4 2.0T quattro Sedan with automatic transmission financed at 0.9% APR for 24 months, equals $1,325.97 per month. Dealer may sell for less. Down payment or equivalent trade-in, due at signing, may be required. Cost of borrowing is $296.28 for a total obligation of $31,823.28, including taxes and finance charges. PPSA, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges and options extra. Offer valid until October 1, 2009 and may change or be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. "Audi", "A4", "quattro", and the four rings emblem are registered trademarks of AUDI AG. "CARFAX" is a registered trademark of CARFAX, Inc. To find out more about Audi or for more details, see your dealer, call 1-800-FOR-AUDI, or visit www.audi.ca/certified.

Car lovers' dream come true in Hejavec's garage

MyDrive

Heather Buchan

metronews.ca/mydrive

As one of five judges on CBC's popular show, Dragon's Den, Robert Herjavec puts his own money on the line each week to back the business ventures of aspiring entrepreneurs.

But the business mogul, who became one of Canada's first dotcom millionaires in 2000 after selling his Internet security company BRAK to AT&T for more than $100 million, truly delights in spending his money on fancy cars — those of James Bond movies and boyhood dreams.

As one of a privileged few who make more than they can spend, Herjavec currently has nine cars in his impressive fleet — eight are kept at his Toronto mansion and one at his Florida home. From his favourite — a year-old orange Lamborghini LP640 Murciélago convertible — to his Aston Martin Vanquish, which, he confesses, he hasn't had time to drive this year, Herjavec's collection is truly jaw-dropping.

There's his other Lamborghini, a Gallardo, a Rolls Royce Phantom, a Bentley Continental GTC and a Porsche Cayenne, which his wife, Dianne, ferries their kids around in. "She is basically a taxi driver for our kids," he explains with a laugh. "She has absolutely no interest in taking the Lamborghini for a spin."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE PHOTO

Robert Herjavec, one of the judges on CBC's popular show Dragon's Den, poses with his impressive lineup of cars.

How often does he get out in the LP640? "I'll answer it this way: It's a year old and it's got 1,800 km," he says. "If I go to the golf club, I'll take that car. The problem is, it's got a soft roof that takes 45 minutes to put on, so it's not something that you put on and off or carry with you," he explains.

To commute to work, the 45-year-old takes his Mercedes-Benz S550 in the summer and his Cadillac Escalade in the winter. "Before the environmental people stalk me, in my defence, I have three kids, one dog, skis, snowboards … Find me another car that can take all that stuff at once and is eco-friendly, and I'll buy it," he says of his Escalade.

Recalling the first sports car he ever owned, the one-time Formula 4 driver reveals: "It was a Pontiac Trans Am with the t-top and the screaming chicken logo. Not very quick, but a great car."

Although it's been eight years since he stopped racing professionally, Herjavec credits that experience with making him a better driver. "You realize how much there is to driving and how little the average driver really knows about driving," he says.

"I feel really bad that I don't have the time to drive the cars that I have," he laments. "So I'm saying to myself 'Why am I looking at other cars when I have a car in the garage that I haven't driven once?'" There are, no doubt, lots of people who would be happy to help him out.

Heather Buchan is a Toronto-based journalist who has worked at several magazines, including Hello! Canada, where she cut her teeth in the world of celebrities.

Travel at the iTunes Store
iLounge.com notes that Apple has added a new Travel Guide section to the iTunes Store. "Found on the right-hand side of the main iTunes storefront under More In Music, (it) offers links to destination applications, podcasts, audiobooks" and lots more. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Standing room

According to the International Airline Passengers Association (IAPA), "at least two very low-cost carriers are entertaining the idea of transporting passengers in an upright manner — standing up! ... Spring Air, China's self-proclaimed first low-cost carrier is looking for permission from regulators to install 'standing seats' that would cost less than traditional seats... (and Ryanair) is looking to Boeing for a design that would permit stools or railings for passengers to be strapped to." See iapa.com for more details. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

5 pint-sized pod hotels

Smaller is better at this new breed of accommodation

ROMINA McGUINNESS
Metro World News

Two examples of the pod hotel concept in New York include, left, The Jane, which features cabin-style rooms, and right, The Pod Hotel.

These days, you can get miniature versions of just about everything: Magazines, toothpaste, mascara brushes ... the list is endless. But now travellers are searching out mini-sized hotel rooms that can serve as a sort of glorified locker while one heads off to explore a destination.

The concept of the pod or capsule hotel stems from Japan, where they were designed to give people with busy working lives — not to mention those who had a few too many shots of sake at a client dinner and missed the last bullet train home — a place to crash in for a few hours sleep.

The focus here is on cheap, comfortable and compact but stylish rooms that still manage to cram the latest technologies, from iPod docks to flatscreen TVs. Choose from these top five capsule hotels from New York to Tokyo:

The Pod Hotel, New York: Pod and blog
The concept: Although there is no denying the simple, stylish and high-tech pods are great value for money, this is of secondary importance at The Pod, where the focus is on saving energy (and cash) for socializing, interacting and discovering New York City. Stop at the Pod Café, a rooftop bar serving home-style organic food for a chat with your pod pals, or find out about their experiences on the Pod Community Blog, where guests can post comments about their stay, making it a sort of online concierge service.

Expect flash updates on what's cool in town, including music, free events and activities.
Price per pod: From about $112 per night.
The site: thepodhotel.com

The Jane, Manhattan: Survivors, sailors and holiday makers
The concept: This landmark hotel in New York's West Village was built as a hotel for sailors and restored for its centenary in 2008. The building's cabin-style rooms sheltered the stranded survivors of the Titanic in 1912, but you're now more likely to come across hip but cash-strapped travellers than seafarers these days. The pod-sized rooms have the look and feel of a luxury ship's cabin — mixing iPod docking points and free Wi-Fi with antique fans. If you get a bit of cabin fever, the rest of the hotel is fortunately not based on the compact cruise ship concept — the grandiose ballroom lounge is always buzzing with guests also in search of open space.
Price per pod: From about $112 per night.
The site: thejanenyc.com

Yotel! , Heathrow Terminal 4, Gatwick South Terminal and Schiphol: Capsule cabin
The concept: Missed your flight? No need to strain your neck sleeping on a row of seats in the departures lounge when you can snooze for a couple of hours in a capsule-sized cabin with 24-hour room-service, monsoon showers and a jukebox to sing along to.

The pods are modelled after the interior of a plane — you are after all, in an airport — with rooms designed for travellers with overbooked schedules and a thirst for technology and comfort.

If you have time to kill before check-in, opt for a premium cabin featuring a techno wall with flatscreen TV, surround-sound and iPod docks. But don't get too comfortable, or you may miss your flight.
Price per pod: From about $53 for four hours or $114 per night.
The site: yotel.com

Qbic, Amsterdam: Cubed and Tuned
The concept: A four-poster bed, a shower and chair packed into just seven square metres — this is no dollhouse, but an average room at the Qbic, where interior designer Philippe Starck created the decor.

Everything here functions on self-service, from check-in to the Grab & Go vending machine that dispenses everything from snacks to toothpaste and neckties.

Read more on page 32 ››

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Mobil Travel Guide rebranded

Beginning in October, the Mobil Travel Guide brand will become the Forbes Travel Guide. Mobil's four- and five-star awards for hotels, restaurants and spas will become Forbes awards when the annual ratings results are announced in November. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soaking up Cairo's chaotic energy

Egyptian capital has lots to offer once you've seen the big attractions

KLAAS BOOMSMA
Metro World News

Without question, a first-time visit to Cairo is all about taking phenomenal sights from the Sphinx and the pyramids at Giza to the ancient Citadel and the National Museum, which is cluttered with a breathtaking collection of sarcophagi and statues of Ancient Egyptian gods.

But when you've checked these historical items off your to-do-list, it's time for entertainment and relaxation; for a drink and a bite to eat.

Cairo is a huge city and the traffic is absolutely crazy, what with with four million cars on the road. Taking a taxi is the easiest way to get from one part of the Egyptian capital to the next. Even if you're an expert at haggling, you will be paying more for a cab than the Egyptians do, but it's still a lot cheaper than it is in most European cities.

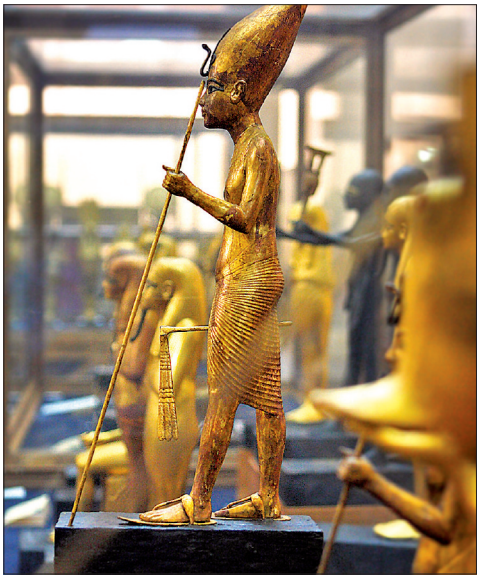
Once you've accepted this fact you can sit back and enjoy the roller coaster ride that is a cab trip through the cradle of civilization, as the Cairenes like to call their city.

Start off in downtown Cairo to get a feel for the energy in this city, which truly never sleeps. See the shops, bargain for souvenirs and go have a drink in El Horreya Pub on Bab el Louk Square. For a quick snack you can get an inexpensive falafel sandwich.

After checking out the downtown area you might feel like heading somewhere with a more relaxed atmosphere. Take a cab to the green urban "island" of Zamalek, surrounded by the mighty river Nile. Here you'll find bars, restaurants, bookstores and loads of Egyptian students strolling along the boulevard along the Nile, chilling out with a cup of mint tea in one of the many coffee shops or starting a big night out.

Read more on page 29 »

Left, a vendor in a Cairo market. Right, patrons sit outside at one of the Egyptian capital's many bustling cafés.



An object on display at Cairo's National Museum.

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Cairo residents enjoy the tranquility of a city park.

Visitors listen to a tour guide at Cairo's National Museum.

>> Continued from page 28

It's the perfect place to end a day in the great city of Cairo.

Where to stay:

Odeon Palace Hotel in downtown Cairo, Abdel Hamid Said 6. This three-star hotel has an authentic Egyptian look and feel, lots of woodwork and a rooftop bar and restaurant open around the clock with stunning views over Cairo. Close to the National Museum, near a shopping centre. From about $17 per night for a single room and $19 per person for a double room.

Where to eat:

Restaurant Abou el Sid, 26th of July street 157, Zamalek. This beautifully-decorated restaurant offers delicious Egyptian cuisine with Turkish and Lebanese influences, served up by friendly waiters. A variety of dishes on your table costs about $10. You may have to wait 20 minutes to get a table, but it's worth it.

Where to drink:

For a cheap beer and great atmosphere visit El Horreya Pub in downtown Cairo, on Bab el Louk Square. You can get half a litre of Stella for about $1 and drink it in the company of Egyptians and foreigners of all walks of life, and lots of creative types. El Horreya is also known as Freedom Café.

Where to see live music:

With live music almost every night, the Cairo Jazz Club in Zamalek is a nicely crowded, energetic place with good prices for food and drinks. The crowd consists of older students and young professionals.

Good to know

Getting around: Take a cab and negotiate a price before you get in. After you buy a souvenir, ask the shop owner what's a good taxi price.

When to go: Avoid July and August.

Words to the wise: Remember to hydrate! Women travellers may wish to dress conservatively to avoid unwanted attention.

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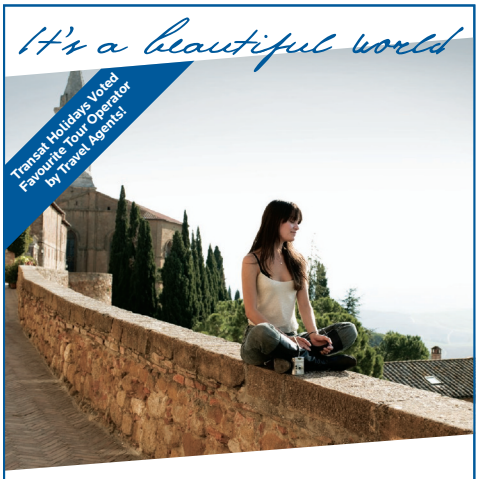

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Tourism drop for Nova Scotia

Statistics released yesterday show that 592,100 people came to Nova Scotia between January and May this year, a drop of seven per cent over the same period in 2008. Air travel is off by 24 per cent and room nights sold are down eight per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Touring America's oldest synagogue

Rhode Island house of worship opens new visitors' centre

The Touro Synagogue was barely 25 years old when George Washington offered a vision of religious tolerance in a letter he sent its congregants.

The new American government, the president wrote in the most famous passage of the 1790 letter, "gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."

A copy of the letter is the highlight of a new $12 million US visitors centre next to the Touro Synagogue, the oldest existing Jewish house of worship in the United States.

The visitors centre details the history of the synagogue, which was dedicated in 1763, but has a broader focus on colonial Jewish history and culture and the principles that guided the nation's founding, centre curator David Kleiman said.

"There's a placement in history of the role that this building has played and, more importantly, the role as a living symbol of the concept of religious freedom, separation of church and state," Kleiman said.

"The building and its history are the embodiment of that concept in America."

ERIC J. SHELTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Touro Synagogue, the oldest existing Jewish house of worship in the United States, is seen in Newport, RI. A new $12 million US visitor centre has just opened next to the synagogue.

Touro Synagogue, designated a National Historic Site in 1946, maintains an active Orthodox Jewish congregation and still offers tours. But the goal of the visitors centre, 12 years in the making, is to offer even more information in an interactive setting, said Keith Stokes, chairman of the board at the Touro Synagogue Foundation.

"We've got this great story and history to share, but we needed to create a platform where everyone felt able to attend and learn," Stokes said.

Visitors to the centre, which is separated from the synagogue by a grassy park, can scroll through hundreds of images and biographies of early American Jews. Panels detail the origin of the synagogue, its architect and its founding members. Costumed actors play out scenes of colonial life in eight video vignettes projected onto glass.

The centre's timeline starts before Rhode Island even had a Jewish community.

The first Jewish community in America is generally traced to 1654, when Jews from Recife, Brazil, arrived in the Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam - today New York City.

In 1658, 15 families of Sephardic Jews travelled to Newport, a bustling waterfront hub in Rhode Island, a colony founded by Roger Williams on the principle of religious freedom. Isaac Touro, a Dutch Jew, arrived 100 years later from Amsterdam and became the congregation's first spiritual leader.

The congregation bought land, and the synagogue was designed by architect Peter Harrison, who also was responsible for King's Chapel in Boston.

The synagogue was dedicated Dec. 2, 1763, during Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. It served as a hospital for British soldiers during the Revolutionary War and later as a meeting place for the state legislature and Supreme Court.

In August 1790, Washington and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson paid a goodwill visit to Rhode Island after it became the last of the 13 original colonies to ratify the Constitution.

Washington exchanged letters with the synagogue's warden, Moses Seixas, who expressed gratitude that the American government "gives to bigotry no sanction," words Washington would echo in his letter to Newport's Jewish community in 1790, a year before the ratification of the Bill of Rights.

The letter is "one of the great documents in American history," said John Loeb, a philanthropist who largely funded the centre and was ambassador to Denmark in the administration of former U.S. president Ronald Reagan.

But the centre had to settle for a copy of it since the original is under the stewardship of the Jewish advocacy organization B'nai Brith in Washington, D.C., and is owned by a private family that has been reluctant to lend it, Kleiman said.

Stokes, who also is executive director of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce, said the visitors centre would enhance the city's colonial heritage, which jostles for attention alongside images of the city's Gilded Age mansions and the contemporary yachting culture.

"At the end of the day," Stokes said, "historic structures and sites and places — historic occurrences — are important, but if you don't tell it from the perspective of the people the visitor can't connect with it." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Discovery Channel launches adventure travel tour brand

NEW OFFERINGS Discovery Channel is launching a new brand of tours and trips called Discovery Adventures. The brand will offer trips to destinations including Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, the Amazon, the Galapagos, India, Thailand, Cambodia, China, South Africa, Morocco, Egypt, Alaska and the U.S. Southwest. Itineraries will range from cruises and safaris to exploring the ancient civilizations of the Incas, the Egyptians and Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

Tour themes will tie in with places featured on Discovery Channel programs like Man V. Wild, Out of Egypt, Discovery Atlas, Dirty Jobs and Into the Unknown with Josh Bernstein. Participants will have opportunities to explore ruins and historic sites, as well as to do volunteer work in the destinations and experience local cultures. Departures begin in December. The trips will run from three to 24 days and are being offered in partnership with G.A.P. Adventures. Details at discoveryadventures.com.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Memorial Tower in Halifax named National Historic Site

Memorial Tower, a familiar Halifax landmark and symbol of the birth of parliamentary democracy in Canada, has been designated a National Historic Site, says Parks Canada.

The four-sided tower was built between 1908 and 1912 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Nova Scotia house of assembly, considered the first elected colonial legislative body in the British Empire. It was also intended to celebrate Canada's relationship with the Empire.

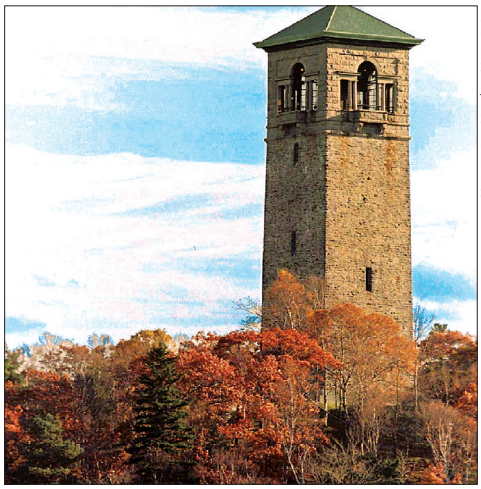
"It has been a special landmark on the Northwest Arm for 100 years but the meaning of the tower has been largely forgotten," said Halifax councillor Linda Mosher.

The tower sits on high ground at the former summer retreat of the noted engineer Sir Sandford Fleming.

It combines features of late 19th-century High Victorian design with Edwardian classical elements, and was also inspired "for philosophical reasons" by the Tower of St. Mark's in Venice, said a news release.

"Memorial Tower was meant to celebrate an anticipated imperial future in which Britain would lead her colonies in a unified political and economic coalition, the most powerful in the world," said Parks Canada.

Two bronze lions at the foot of the tower were designed by British sculptor Albert Brucejoy who was influenced by the lion sculptures at London's Trafalgar Square. THE CANADIAN PRESS



ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A view of the historical, 30-metre-high Memorial Tower in Halifax, which was built between 1908 and 1912.

Epcot food fest tickets available on Aug. 11

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA. The 14th annual Epcot International Food & Wine Festival Festival runs for six weeks beginning Sept. 25 at Walt Disney World Resort, but booking for some of the most popular reservation-only events opens in August.

Reservations will be taken beginning at 7 a.m. on Aug. 11 at 407-939-3378 for programs including Epcot wine schools, tequila tastings, French regional lunches, cheese seminars, and food and wine pairings, among others. For dates, more programs and other details, visit disneyworld.com/foodandwine.

Entrance to the Epcot International Food & Wine Festival, plus Eat to the Beat! concerts, culinary exhibits, park attractions and other entertainment is included with regular Epcot admission. Celebrity chefs scheduled to take part in the festival on designated dates include Jeff Henderson, Cat Cora, Warren Brown, Jamie and Bobby Deen, Alan Wong, Art Smith, Robert Irvine, Keegan Gerhard and Jacques Torres. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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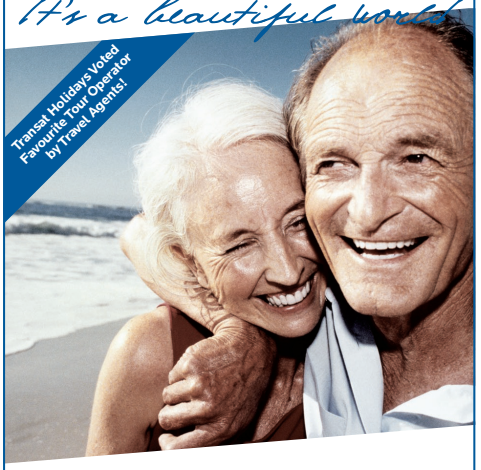

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Two views of the rooms at Qbic, a pod hotel where guests can change the colour of lighting in their tiny living quarters.

The small-scale world of Pod hotels

>> Continued from page 27

The high point of your short stay? In your quirky Cub' living space you'll be able to adapt the lighting — mellow yellow, red romance, deep purple love — to suit your mood.

Price per pod: From about $125 per night.

The site: qbichotels.com

Capsule Inn Akihabara, Tokyo: Inn Tokyo

The concept: You can sleep in a capsule that's the exact replica of a jet airplane cockpit in Tokyo's original pod hotel.

Like other pod hotels, Capsule Inn has separate floors for men and women, although sharing would be physically impossible as these functional pods are about the size of the average tanning booth rather than a hotel room. They are definitely not for the claustrophobic. There's also a main lounge area for those waiting for their next shuttle train home, or to the office.

Once nestled in your capsule bed, you'll be pleasantly surprised to find that there's still the space for a TV, radio, adjustable lighting and of course, an alarm clock — to make sure you actually make it back to work in time.

Toothbrushes, robes (Yukatas) and razors (to get rid of morning stubble) are supplied free of charge and although the inn has no eating facilities, there is a world of options waiting outside. If you need to check your email or join a conference call, the ground floor lounge has free Internet.

Price per pod: From about $55 per night.

The site: capsuleinn.com

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Jackman joins Barnum musical
Hugh Jackman will unleash his singing skills on screen for a musical focused on legendary showman P.T. Barnum. Jenny Bicks is writing the script for Fox. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

The Brit Awards
Britney Spears has done it again. The singer has been nominated for seven MTV Video Music Awards. Last year, the pop princess took home three Moon Man trophies for Piece of Me. EONLINE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Filmmakers toying around

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

If Hollywood gets its way this weekend, we will all soon be going to theatres to take in thrillers about Stretch Armstrong, He-Man and even the popular board game Monopoly.

That's because this Friday's theatrical release of G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra will firmly establish the latest trend in filmmaking — movies based on popular toys.

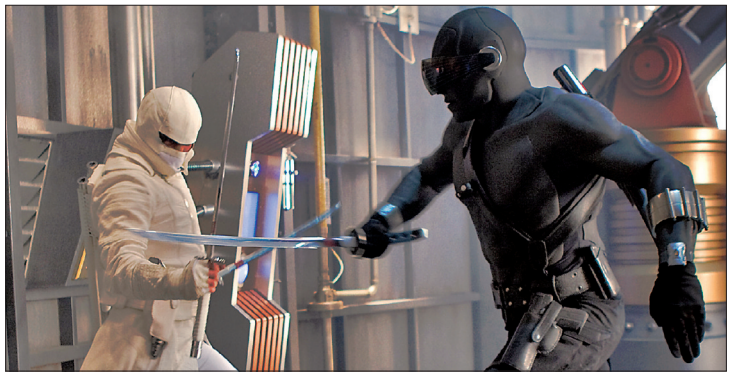
Of course, it's not a completely novel idea. Even before Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen racked up over $380 million (and counting) this summer, there had been earlier proverbial dips of the toe in the toy genre.

But why have retro-toy movies become so popular?

"It's an escape from economic issues, woes and stress," said Transformers star Megan Fox recently. "People need to get away from reality and I think watching a movie about toys is a good way to numb your brain to things you don't want to be dealing with in life."

That nostalgic flight may be influential but there's also an entirely more strategic game working behind the scenes. With two major toy companies (Hasbro, Mattel) now aggressively paired with Hollywood's top talent agencies, it seems the toymakers are cross-pollinating their product with the cinema directly.

In fact, Hasbro (both Transformers and G.I. Joe) has set up a six-year deal with Universal Pictures to obtain more authority on their toys' image.



G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra, which is based on the popular toy line, opens in theatres this Friday.

"I think what we're seeing in the world at large is the power of brands distinguishing themselves," Universal Pictures Chairman Marc Shmuger recently told The Business Insider. "As we're gripped with fear and anxiety, we look for something we can rely on and trust … so the value of brands has changed, (and with it) what the owners of the brands want to accomplish changes too."

In addition to the aforementioned toys being turned into movies, other products in film development include board games like Battleship (with Hancock director Peter Berg attached) and Candy Land (written by Tropic Thunder's Etan Cohen).

As well, expect future movies about Hot Wheels, Masters of the Universe and even 1960s-era action figure Major Matt Mason — which is linked to none other than Tom Hanks. And when you've pervaded the influence of such A-list actors as Hanks, you know you've made it in Hollywood.

Movie **feature**

Paramount won't screen film for mainstream critics

It's the biggest movie of the summer that practically no one has seen.

G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra opens Friday, but Paramount Pictures isn't screening the blockbuster for critics beforehand. Only a select few writers from blogs and movie websites have seen it for review — such as Harry Knowles, the self-professed "Head Geek" from Ain't It Cool News — and their opinions have been mostly positive.

Instead, the studio says it's intentionally aiming the movie at the heartland, at cities and audiences outside the entertainment vortexes of New York and Los Angeles. Paramount held a screening Friday for 1,000 military service members and their families at Andrews Air Force Base; it's also focusing marketing efforts in places like Kansas City, Charlotte, N.C., and Columbus, Ohio.

"We chose to forgo opening-day print and broadcast reviews as a strategy to promote G.I. Joe. We want audiences to define this film."
Rob Moore

While appealing to a sense of patriotism nationwide, the plan also is inspired by the disparity that existed between the critical trashing Transformers: Rise of the Fallen received and the massive crowds it drew at the box office.

"G.I. Joe is a big, fun, summer event movie — one that we've seen audiences enjoy everywhere from Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland to Phoenix, Ariz.," said Rob Moore, vice chairman of Paramount Pictures. "After the chasm we experienced with Transformers 2 between the response of audiences and critics, we chose to forgo opening-day print and broadcast reviews as a strategy to promote G.I. Joe. We want audiences to define this film."

With a reported production budget of $175 million US and a cast that includes Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum, Sienna Miller and Joseph Gordon-Levitt, G.I. Joe follows the adventures of an elite team using high-tech spy and military equipment to take down a corrupt arms dealer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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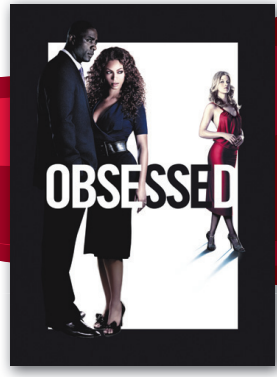

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Cyrus sighting

Miley Cyrus has been tapped to make a live performance at 2009 Teen Choice Awards. The Hannah Montana star will deliver her brand new song Party in the USA at the annual event airing Monday. ACESHOWBIZ.COM

Deep, dark secret in Cove's waters

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Ric O'Barry is quite literally a dolphin superhero. In Toronto to promote the upcoming documentary The Cove, the former Flipper trainer-turned-activist took an emergency call requiring him to rescue a porpoise in Spain.

"If there's a dolphin in trouble anywhere in the world," said the tireless advocate, "somebody will contact me. That's how it works."

As the documentary's prime subject, O'Barry is a fascinating man who has spent the better part of 40 years struggling to prevent the multi-billion dollar industry of trapping dolphins for captivity.

In 1976, O'Barry discovered Taiji, Japan — a town whose darkest secret is the annual slaughter of thousands of cetaceans. In The Cove (which hits theatres this Friday), O'Barry enlists first-time filmmaker Louie Psihoyos and a small group of covert activists to document the ongoing massacre in the heavily guarded inlet.

First-time filmmaker Louie Psihoyos led a small covert team to document the ongoing massacre of dolphins in Taiji, Japan.

"I think I did everything wrong on this film in terms of the subject," joked Psihoyos. "Steven Spielberg told me when I first started this, 'Never make a movie involving boats or large animals,' and everything I did was going to involve boats and large, uncooperative animals."

The Cove opens in theatres Friday

Animals aside, Psihoyos soon realized the true challenge would lie in eluding furious fishermen and armed guards to gather footage of the slaughter.

"People ask me, 'Were you scared?'. I think I'm more scared now that it's over," said Psihoyos. "We've taken on the second largest economy in the world, the captive dolphin industry, the cove industry — I mean, The Cove is not just a movie about the cove, it's a microcosm of what's going on in the bigger oceans."

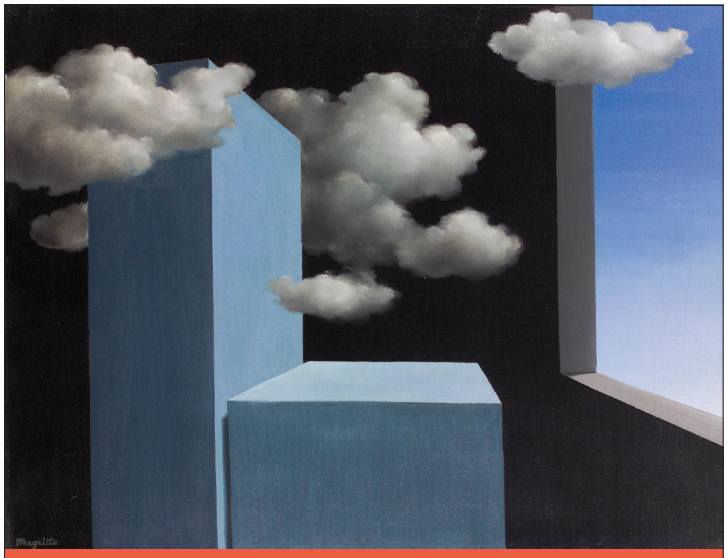
As much as The Cove plays out like a taut thriller, it's also an education into issues involving dolphins, the poisoning of marine life and the depleting oceans.

In fact, it can all be overwhelming but just as O'Barry tackles the Taiji slaughter, the dolphin superhero insists everyone can make a difference.

"If you're buying a ticket for a performing dolphin show, you're part of the problem," said O'Barry. "Spend that same money seeing The Cove and you'll see why."

For more

- Visit Ric O'Barry's website at savejapandolphins.org



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René Magritte, *The Tempest*, 1931, oil on canvas. Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT. Bequest of Kay Sage Tanguy. © René Magritte / SODRAC (2009)

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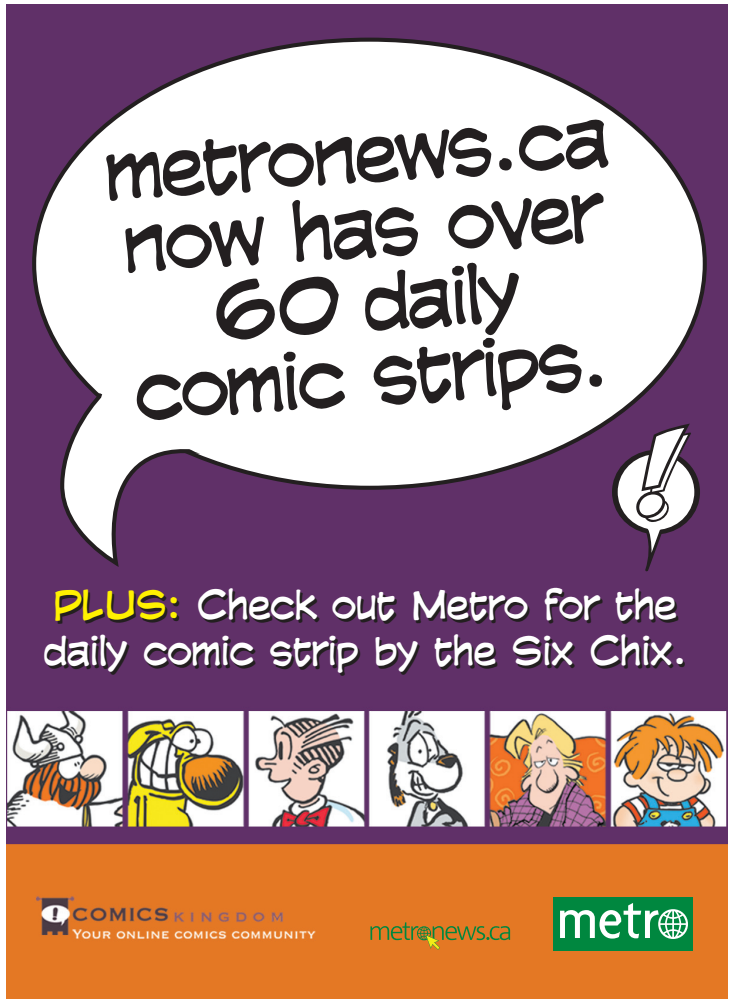

24 star gets hitched
24 star Mary Lynn Rajskub and personal trainer Matthew Rolph got married this weekend in a Las Vegas ceremony, People reports. POPEATER.COM

In brief

AWARD Filmmaker Steven Spielberg will be awarded Philadelphia's 2009 Liberty Medal for his artistic and humanitarian achievements. The National Constitution Center made the announcement Tuesday. Former President Bill Clinton will present the award, which comes with a US$100,000 cash prize, to Spielberg on Oct. 8.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NOMINATIONS Paul Gross' Canadian war epic Passchendaele leads the pack of films going into the Directors Guild of Canada Awards. The First World War drama has received five nominations, including best feature.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

TIFF announces films

The Young Victoria, a look at the turbulent early years of Queen Victoria's rule by Quebec director Jean-Marc Vallee, will close the Toronto International Film Festival next month.

"We're delighted to close the festival with such a gorgeous film that completely reinvents our image of Queen Victoria," festival CEO Piers Handling said in a statement as the Canadian slate of films was announced.

The Young Victoria stars Emily Blunt, who plays the queen.

The festival also announced that Atom Egoyan's thriller Chloe will have its world premiere at this year's event, which runs Sept. 10-19.

Based on the French film Nathalie, it stars Liam Neeson and Julianne Moore. Neeson was working on the film in Toronto earlier this year when his wife, Natasha Richardson, died following a ski accident near Montreal.

Toronto actor Don McKellar, meanwhile, will also make an appearance at the fest, starring in Dilip Mehta's Cooking With Stella as a chef in New Delhi. The film was written by his sister, director Deepa Mehta.

And Ottawa-raised actress Sandra Oh will appear alongside Woody Harrelson in the super-hero flick, Defendor.
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Liam Neeson stars in Atom Egoyan's film Chloe, which will show at this year's TIFF.

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Imodium metro

Small town, big show

A couple of hip hop and R&B's biggest names will headline a three-day music festival in Canada this summer, bucking the convention that usually seeds one of rock's top acts in the marquee slot.

BRAD BARKET / GETTY IMAGES

Canadian rapper Kardinal Offishall performs on the final night of 1,000 Islands Music Fest in Gananoque, Ont., on Aug. 15.

The festival is not in Toronto, Vancouver or Montreal, but small-town Ontario, hours away from the nearest metropolis.

The 1,000 Islands Music Fest, running Aug. 13 through Aug. 15 in Gananoque, Ont., population about 5,300, is headlined by Snoop Dogg on its final night, and Canadian rapper Kardinal Offishall and R&B chart-topper Akon will go on the main stage before him.

Canadian rockers Simple Plan will headline the second night of the festival, which also features rock band Plain White Ts, best known for their hit Hey There Delilah, the Original Blues Brothers Revue tribute act, and a host of other Canadian and local acts including illScarlett, the Arkells, Lights, Pilot Speed, the New Cities and Faber Drive.

The town has previously marketed itself as "safe, friendly and good" and the Canadian gateway to the picturesque Thousand Islands on the St. Lawrence River. But it's now rolling the dice and looking for a new image, hoping to become a small-town music mecca for fans in nearby municipalities, who have traditionally had few chances to see a local concert.

With record sales consistently sliding and touring revenues increasingly paying the bills for musicians, the town is hoping to sneak its way onto the lists of tour dates for major acts that are looking to add another stop on the trek across Highway 401 between Montreal or Ottawa and Toronto. If Halifax can land Paul McCartney why can't Gananoque land some big names too, says festival president Rod MacDonald, who is launching the inaugural show.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Broad appeal

- The festival was originally envisioned as having a country and classic rock flavour but the music programmers hired to book the acts convinced festival president Rod MacDonald to try something bold and appeal to a wider audience with a diverse array of performers.

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
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	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Wipeout (HDTV) (N)		(9:02) In Plain Sight		The Philanthropist (N)		News
	215	343	4 OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy!	Dragon's Den (HDTV)		The Tudors (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Goode Family	Surviving Sub.	(9:02) I Survived a Japanese Game Show (N)				News
	212	313	8 CTV	Corner Gas	Hollywood	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		So You Think You Can Dance		CSI: NY (HDTV)		News
	218	345	11 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Psych		Kendra	Kendra	Women on Top	Women on Top	News/Eleven
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	213	326	15 SUN	Stargate SG-1		*Seventeen and Missing* (2007, Drama) Deedee Pfeiffer.				To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY (HDTV)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	TV's 50 Funniest Phrases		America's Got Talent		The Philanthropist (N)		News
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Wipeout (HDTV) (N)		(9:02) I Survived a Japanese Game Show (N)				News
	219	346	20 ACH-B	The Road to Avonlea		Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	America's Got Talent		Monk		News (N)
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance		So You Think You Can Dance		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	Wait for God	Time Team America (N)		Dolly: Live in London O2 Arena			Film Festival	Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
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news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Fortune	The Hour		CBC News: The National		The Ugly Truth About Beauty		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
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	554	544	45 TEL	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Father of Pride	Moral Orel
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cable variety	602	567	27 W	Style by Jury	Friends	Grocery Bag	Grocery	Love It or List It		*Wicked Minds* (2002, Suspense)		
	570	580	29 MM	One Tree Hill		Degrassi: TNG	Instant Star	Making His Band		Video on Trial	Video on Trial	One Tree Hill
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami "Identity"		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Criss Angel
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Elisa di Rivombosa		Elisa di Rivombosa		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36 MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew		Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38 CMT	Project Dad	Project Dad	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Canyon
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		The Guard (HDTV)		*Destination: Infestation* (2007, Suspense)				House
	620	523	40 BVO	The Achievers	Bravo!Videos	Arts & Minds	O'Reagan File	Wingfield	Wingfield	Borradaile's Century		Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	NCIS "Grace Period"		Cities of the Underworld		Ice Road Truckers		NCIS "Grace Period"		Sea Hunters
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show	Tosh.0	Daily Show
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Big City Broker	The Stagers	Property Virgin	Hid Potential	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	*Bandits* ★★ (2001, Comedy) Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton.					Seinfeld	*Bandits*
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Light It Up* ★★ (1999, Drama) Usher Raymond.				The Game	The Game	W. Williams
	627	528	50 SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval		Stormworld (N)	Stormworld (N)	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52 MTV	MTV Cribs	After	MTV News	Cribs	The Real World		The Real World (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	The Crow: Stairway to Heaven		What Happen?	What Happen?	Are You Smarter		Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	603	561	56 FOOD	Chef at Home	Fresh-Anna	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		The Next Food Network Star		Opening Soon
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Keeping Up	Foot in Grave	Doc Martin		Recreat. Eden	Prenup	Poltergeist
	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	Hollywood	Canada's Next Top Model		Tonight Show-Conan O'Brien		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	Les Gags	Histoires-filles	Les Anges de la rénovation		Gary Kurtz: Juste une illusion		TVA 22 heures	Sucré-salé	*Folies de grad*
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Medium		The Closer		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums
	300	601	301 M1	*Hairspray* ★★★ (2007, Musical Comedy) John Travolta.				*Pineapple Express* ★★ (2008, Comedy) Seth Rogen.				*Heartbreak Kid*
	305	612	306 PIX	*The Score*	(7:20) *Net Worth* (1995, Docudrama)			*Frantic* ★★★ (1988, Suspense) Harrison Ford.				*Black Pearls*

critics'corner

The Philanthropist

Rhada Shivpuri (guest star Sarita Choudhury), one of Teddy and Philip's (James Purefoy, Jesse L. Martin) college friends, asks for help negotiating with the Indian and Pakistani governments in an effort to rebuild the water system in the Kashmir region. Philip and Dax (Michael Kenneth Williams) must lead a desperate manhunt after Teddy goes missing in a war-torn sector. Neve Campbell also stars in the new episode "Kashmir." 10 PM on GTV, 10 PM on NBC

The Next Food Network Star

In "Miami Up All Night," the remaining four finalists prepare to head to Miami for their next challenge, but first they must create a dish for one of OTG Management's restaurants at JetBlue's Terminal 5 at JFK Airport in New York. The finalists then go to Miami to cater a swanky party at the fabulous Nikki Beach nightclub. 10 PM on FOOD

Jon & Kate return to air post-split

SERIES Reality TV mom Kate Gosselin says she feels a sense of peace after making the decision to separate from her husband, Jon. She says the stress of a marital breakup puts things in perspective and makes the kitchen remodelling project under way at their Pennsylvania home seem like no big deal. Two new episodes of Jon & Kate Plus 8 on Monday marked the end of a hiatus that began last June, when the Gosselins revealed their decision to split. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

COURTS One of two Ohio police chiefs accused of snooping on Sarah Jessica Parker's surrogate mother has been placed on paid leave.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

Douglas son's drug charge
Michael Douglas' son Cameron Douglas has been arrested in New York on a drug charge, according to media reports. Douglas, 30, was arrested at the Hotel Gansevoort in Manhattan and faces a methamphetamine-dealing charge. PEOPLE.COM

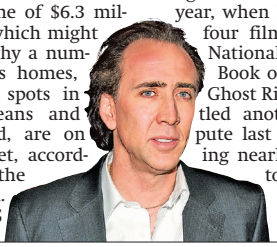
Celebrity Buzz

Nick ticks off the tax man

WRONG SIDE OF THE LAW Nicolas Cage has reportedly run afoul of the tax man to the tune of $6.3 million US, which might explain why a number of his homes, including spots in New Orleans and Hollywood, are on the market, according to the Daily Mail.

The IRS has filed court papers seeking millions from Cage for the 2007 fiscal year, when he starred in four films, including National Treasure: Book of Secrets and Ghost Rider. Cage settled another tax dispute last year by paying nearly $1 million to the IRS.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Hilton mom remembers Michael

NOSTALGIA Kathy Hilton, Paris' mom, was devastated by the recent loss of her lifelong "special friend" Michael Jackson, people.com reports.

"I have never lost anybody that I went to school with that I was close to in a friendship (that lasted) all these years," she told People.

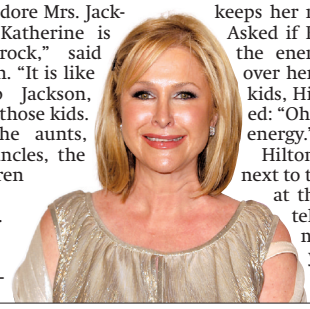
But Hilton, who first met Jackson when they were teens, believes that the late singer's mother Katherine will be a positive guardian for the kids.

"I adore Mrs. Jackson. Katherine is the rock," said Hilton. "It is like Camp Jackson, all of those kids. All the aunts, the uncles, the children come there. She plays Scrabble with them. She loves it. I think that's what keeps her really young."

Asked if Katherine has the energy to watch over her three grandkids, Hilton responded: "Oh, she's got the energy."

Hilton, who lived next to the late singer at the Bel-Air Hotel for several months last year, has fond memories of her former neighbour. "He was so much more normal than people know. He really was. He loved to giggle and have fun. I spent time with him, had dinners," she said. "He was the best father. He devoted the last 14 years to being with his children. He was a wonderful, kind, thoughtful, caring person. He would be there for people and he was so generous with his time and money."

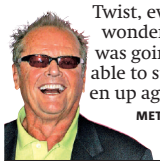
METRO NEWS SERVICES



Jack shows his age on the Riviera

GETTING OLD Actor Jack Nicholson has been making a splash in the French Riviera, frolicking with a much-younger companion Sunday before hitting a club in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat. One onlooker said the 72-year-old's "moves were rather limited ... He was giving it his all, but when he started doing the Twist, everyone wondered if he was going to be able to straighten up again."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Pam and Tommy reunite in Vegas

GOOD TIMES Pamela Anderson and Tommy Lee seem to be back in each other's good graces. The on-again, off-again couple celebrated Lee's recent concert in Las Vegas by canoodling at a local nightclub, according to the Sun. "They were making out all night and biting each other's candy necklaces," a source said.

METRO WORLD NEWS

I'm not, but if I was with Jennifer...

FANNING THE FLAMES If Gerard Butler was dating Jennifer Aniston, he'd be the first to admit it, people.com quotes him as saying.

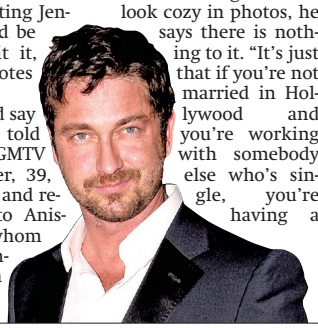
"If I was, I would say I was," the actor told British TV show GMTV on Monday. Butler, 39, has been recently and repeatedly linked to Aniston, 40, with whom he's currently filming The Bounty in Manhattan.

But even though the two look cozy in photos, he says there is nothing to it. "It's just that if you're not married in Hollywood and you're working with somebody else who's single, you're having a thing with her."

Not that there's anything wrong with her. Butler added to GMTV, "I'm not embarrassed by her ... Maybe she's embarrassed by me though!"

And just to add fuel to the fire, Butler says he's looking forward to the day on The Bounty set when they get to share some kisses. "I haven't done it yet," said, "but I'm excited ... I'm lucky — yeah, I know."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Mischa gets off to a rough start

STUMBLING BLOCKS Mischa Barton's return to her social life hasn't been going too smoothly, according to Page Six.

A source spotted the actress out Saturday night in NYC's West Village where Barton was "having a disastrous dinner" with a group of girls.

"She was upset and talking frantically into her phone about having a stalker," the source said. "Her friends were trying to console her, but she went outside and chain-smoked cigarettes."

The next night, Barton attended a party where someone spilled a drink on her dress.

METRO WORLD NEWS

GETTY IMAGES

Mom pulls bid to control MJ estate

LEGAL Now that she's been granted custody of her grandchildren, Katherine Jackson has withdrawn her petition to be put in charge of Michael Jackson's $500 million estate, according to Hollyscoop. Attorney John Branca and music executive John McClain will continue on as co-executors of the estate.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Details on Jude's fling emerge

THE NITTY-GRITTY More details are emerging about how Jude Law first met Samantha Burke, the American model who is pregnant with the actor's fourth child.

The pair met in January outside a New York nightclub after it closed at 4 a.m., according to the Sun, when Law took Burke to a nearby diner before retiring to his hotel room.

Sources say the affair lasted barely a week. Pals of Burke insist she was no party animal before meeting Law.

"She's actually innocent and inexperienced when it comes to men," a high school friend told the newspaper.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Neil caught in Emmy uproar

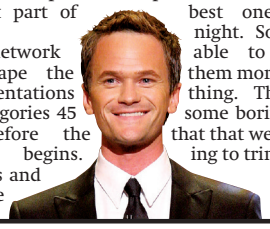
CONTROVERSY Neil Patrick Harris is finding out how tough it can be to host the Emmy Awards, people.com reports.

The How I Met Your Mother star spoke to reporters Monday about the outcry over CBS's plans to time-shift part of the telecast.

The network plans to tape the award presentations in some categories 45 minutes before the broadcast begins. Some writers and producers are worried this will marginalize their work, but Harris said that wasn't the case.

"We're just trying to edit down the standing and the hugging and the walking down the aisle. Quite frankly, the writers' speeches are some of the best ones of the night. So, we'll be able to highlight them more than anything. There's just some boring parts of that that we're just trying to trim down."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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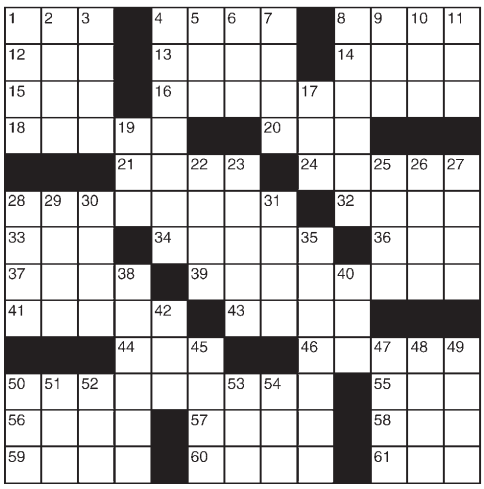

ACROSS

1 Request
4 MacDonald's place
8 Woman of the knight
12 Skedaddle
13 Curved molding
14 Bloodhound's clue
15 Lemieux milieu
16 Ruthless, as a competition
18 Winning
20 Twitch
21 Honey bunch?
24 PAC's concern
28 Likely loser
32 Swampy terrain
33 "A pox upon thee!"
34 Above, to an editor
36 Predetermine
37 Watch wolfishly
39 Carnival goer's lunch, maybe
41 Bookcase component
43 "Wheel of Fortune" option
44 Commotion
46 Legerdemain
50 Basic swimming stroke
55 Praise in verse
56 Rainbow
57 Slay
58 Antiquated
59 Kelly or Siskel
60 Calendar abbr.
61 Turn blue?

DOWN

1 Met melody
2 Similar things
3 Elbow counterpart
4 Animals' entrees
5 In olden times
6 Rule, for short
7 Encounter
8 E-business
9 Toss into the mix
10 Cattle call
11 Work unit
17 Have a bug
19 Honest politician
22 Learning (Abbr.)
23 Future juniors
25 Shuttlecock
26 Vivacity, to the maestro
27 Safecracker
28 Fleet from far away?
29 Approaching
30 Takeout order?
31 Clench
35 Food
38 Pass by
40 — jiffy
42 Medicine approval org.
45 Probability
47 Suitable
48 Without acting
49 Relinquish
50 Use a shovel
51 Raw rock
52 Card-player's call
53 Fawn's mama
54 Back talk

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	8		9					
6	9					8		1
		4		5				9
4		2		3	1			
	3						1	
			2	8		4		6
1				4		7		
9		7					5	2
					6		8	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

3	4	6	9	8	7	2	1	5
9	8	2	4	5	1	7	6	3
5	1	7	3	6	2	8	4	9
7	5	4	8	1	9	3	2	6
8	3	9	2	4	6	5	7	1
2	6	1	7	3	5	4	9	8
4	7	3	1	9	8	6	5	2
1	2	5	6	7	3	9	8	4
6	9	8	5	2	4	1	3	7

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Two-cheese Soufflé

INGREDIENTS:

5 large eggs
3/4 cup (175 ml) 1% milk
2 tbsp (25 ml) all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt
Several dashes hot red pepper sauce
1/3 cup (75 ml) shredded Colby cheese
1/3 cup (75 ml) shredded Swiss cheese

METHOD:

1. Separate eggs. Discard 2 yolks. Place egg whites in medium bowl. Place egg yolks in small bowl. Set aside.
2. Preheat oven to 325 F(160 C). Make foil collar and attach to 1-1/2-qt (1.5-l) soufflé dish. Lightly grease foil collar and soufflé dish. In small pot, whisk milk, flour, salt and red pepper sauce. Cook over moderate heat, stirring constantly, until mixture starts to thicken. Cook and stir 2 minutes more, until thickened and bubbly. Add cheese and stir until melted. Remove from heat.
3. Whisk egg yolks until light. Add some hot cheese mixture to yolks, then slowly whisk all of yolk mixture into cheese mixture.
4 . With electric mixer on high, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Stir one-fourth of whites into hot cheese mixture, then quickly fold in remaining whites. Spoon into prepared soufflé dish. Make top hat. Bake 45 minutes or until puffy and golden. Serve immediately.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
There really is no limit to what you can accomplish, though your efforts are more likely to bring success if you focus on what is important.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Someone you are close to will be emotionally demanding, but if you put yourself out for them now it will save you a lot of problems later on.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
What you do with your life is limited only by the boundaries you allow your mind to impose on your actions. There are no limits. All things are possible.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
The Sun in the most worldly area of your chart makes this a good time to look at what you own and earn. Try something different.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
This is one of the best times of the year for getting things done, both in your personal life and in your work, so don't hold back.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
The Sun's transit of the most sensitive sector of your chart means you won't be able to fool either yourself or other people.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Don't waste time dreaming and scheming of ways to turn back the clock. You know it can't be done.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
You are not the type to keep your opinions to yourself but be aware that if you deliberately antagonize someone today, they will hit back at you later.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
If you feel like packing your bags and heading off into the wide blue yonder by all means do so. Don't hesitate for even a second.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Life moves in cycles and the cycle you are experiencing seems like you are taking too many backward steps.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
You tend to see the world in terms of black and white, but at some point today you will realize that too narrow a viewpoint can be self-defeating.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Assess your priorities and decide what is worth devoting your time and energy to and what can and must be ignored. Aim for quality work.

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2	QUICK PICK				
3	QUICK PICK				
4	QUICK PICK				
5	QUICK PICK				
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7	QUICK PICK				
8	QUICK PICK				
9	QUICK PICK				
10	QUICK PICK				
11	QUICK PICK				
12	QUICK PICK				
13	QUICK PICK				
14	QUICK PICK				

Lottery Group Play Form Disclaimer

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